

Intimate Inequality

*Analysis of the
Supreme Court
Sodomy Ruling*



**Controversy Brews over
Support for Lesbian
Facing Military Discharge**

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Int'l Gay Group Calls off Gay Games Boycott

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

COPENHAGEN — The International Gay and Lesbian Association (ILGA) has called off its boycott of the Gay Games. The group was protesting alleged South African participation in the competition, to be held in San Francisco, August 9-17.

This is the latest of a series of actions and allegations centering on the Gay Association of South Africa (Gasa). In question have been the group's participation in the Games, in ILGA, and in the struggle against apartheid.

ILGA, then the International Gay Association (IGA), passed a resolution at its 1985 conference calling for a boycott of the Games should a South African team participate. The resolution protested South Africa's policy of apartheid.

Reports in *Exit*, the Gasa newsletter, indicated that the group intended to participate in the games, despite the boycott. San Francisco Arts & Athletics, which sponsors the Games, has

continually denied that any South African was registered for the Games. The group has not said that South Africans would be barred from the event.

Out of this mass of contradictions, the 1986, ILGA conference has decided to end its boycott of the Games. ILGA members interviewed by *GCN* said, however, that the decision was made in a "confusion," and that people who participated in it were unclear what they had decided.

Nkoli Still Imprisoned

At the center of the controversy has been Tseko Simon Nkoli, a Black, gay anti-apartheid activist and Gasa member (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 32). Nkoli, along with 21 others, is currently in detention and has been charged with treason. The charge stems from protests the group organized against apartheid in the educational system. The trial of the "Vaal 22" recommenced on July 23 after a month-long recess.

The Scottish Homosexual Rights Group (SHRG) has charged that Gasa has not lifted "the littlest finger" in support of Nkoli or in the struggle against apartheid. SHRG took the initiative in calling for the Gay Games boycott because of the Gasa stance.

In a June 17 letter to Ian Christie of SHRG, Nkoli wrote, "To be honest, Gasa has been unsupportive to me, because they claim I am not arrested for gay-related matters. Although that fact may be true, I don't see why I should [not] be supported . . . They say they are not political organisation so they can't get involve in political activities. People in Gasa has ignored the reality in this matter, but lately they have started writing false statements in *Exit* against me. I don't know why they are doing it. Maybe is because they are being pressured by International world to do something about me. Or maybe they are afraid they will be expelled from IGA."

The Vaal 22 trial is expected to continue for several months. Nkoli writes, "I am hopeful that I may come out as sentenced to few years in prison. I don't think I will be hanged to death as most of my correspondence thinks. I will have life at least."



ILGA '86 conference participants outside City Hall of Copenhagen.

"Simon's Being Gay Is Totally Irrelevant"

Gasa responded to charges that it has refused to help Nkoli in the most recent *IGA Bulletin*.

"We submit that Gasa is an organization committed to the fight against discrimination in a particular area — that which concerns homosexual people," wrote the group's International Secretary, Ann Smith. She continued, "To become involved as an organization in other areas of discrimination is to go beyond this [our] charter."

In regards to Nkoli, Smith observed, "I have attended ses-

sions of the trial and it is abundantly clear that Simon's being gay is totally irrelevant to the charges, he faces . . . Nowhere in the charges is there even a faint hint of his homosexuality being known — let alone relevant to the issue."

ILGA Conference Addresses Apartheid

ILGA addressed apartheid and Gasa at its conference in Copenhagen July 7-12. In a position paper presented to the conference, SHRG called for the suspension of Gasa for two years. There was some sympathy in the group for

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'Oral-fecal' link cited

Missouri Rules for Sodomy Law

By Arlene Zarembka

JEFFERSON CITY, MO — The Missouri Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the state's sexual misconduct statute, a law which criminalizes hand-genital, oral-genital, or anal-genital sexual activity between consenting same-sex adults, on July 15, in a 5-2 decision. Violation of the statute carries a one-year prison sentence and/or \$1000 fine. The case involved a man who had been arrested and charged with attempted sexual misconduct in Creve Coeur Park, St. Louis County. The man was alleged to have touched an undercover policeman's pants with his hands in the genital area.

The court relied on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Georgia sodomy case, as well as the state's supposed interest in promoting public morality and health, to justify its ruling. It also used the case as an opportunity to level an attack on oral and anal sex, and on lesbians and gay men.

While the court stated that the legislature, rather than the court, should evaluate social science data to determine if the law is appropriate, the court took it upon itself to decide that both oral and anal sex are unhygienic. This determination was used as evidence of the need for the law, even though neither oral nor anal sex was alleged in this particular case. The court wrote: "We need not refer to medical literature to suggest, for example, that there might rationally be health ramifications to anal intercourse and/or oral-genital sex."

In a footnote justifying this "scientific" assertion, the court stated: "It must be said that much of the better health of advanced societies is a direct result of removing human waste from the food chain in general living areas. The combination of anal intercourse and oral-genital sex would obviously create a direct oral-fecal link." The court cited as "authority" for this statement, Paul Cameron, an anti-gay psychologist who was expelled from the American Psychological Association in December, 1983 for violating the Preamble to the Ethical Principles of Psychologists. The Nebraska Psychological Association in 1984 dissociated itself from his writings on sexuality, the American Sociological Association and Society for Study of Social Problems both passed resolutions asking for a critical evaluation of Cameron's work, and the Midwest Sociological Society censured him in April, 1985.

The court also justified its decision on the grounds that the legislature could have "reasonably concluded that the general promiscuity characteristic of the homosexual lifestyle made such acts [i.e. oral and anal intercourse] among homosexuals particularly deserving of regulation . . ." Moreover, the ruling encourages anti-gay discrimination by stating, "If homosexual conduct is properly forbidden, any social stigma attaching to those who violate this proscription cannot be constitutionally suspect."

Feminists Stand Divided on Meese Commission Report

By Sharon Page

Despite the dismal record of the U.S. Attorney General on women's, gay, and civil rights, the Meese Commission's recently released report on pornography (see *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 3) was embraced warmly by some in the feminist movement, even as it was hotly condemned by others.

The split in feminist ranks on

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reaction to the conservative-dominated report was the latest — and possibly the most dire — product of the factional schism among feminists on pornography and censorship issues.

Anti-pornography activists Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, in a July 9 statement from New York, declared "For the first time in history, women have succeeded in convincing a national governmental body of the truth women have long known: pornography harms women and children." Echoing this sentiment was the National Organization for Women (NOW) president Ellie Smeal, who termed the report a "breakthrough" in defining pornography as a violation of women's civil rights. But the Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT) in New York countered: "Some feminists have praised the Commission for saying that women are harmed by pornography. However . . . the Commission's finding does not spring from a feminist understanding, but is only one more way to justify obscenity laws." And even anti-pornography author Susan Griffin, quoted in the *Oakland Tribune*, called the report "terrible. It's going to be used as part of a right-wing anti-homosexual

campaign. The Reagan administration is trying to abrogate civil liberties; the porn issue is just a stalking horse for that."

Although all sides categorically rejected the Commission's 36 recommendations for stepped-up obscenity prosecution, feminist criticism of the report has been both soft-pedaled by anti-porn leaders and underplayed by the mass media.

National NOW's ambiguous re-

sponse to the report, and the furor this raised in its own ranks, exemplified the lack of a feminist united front in the face of the Commission.

Smeal's statement warned, "It is imperative that this report not be used as an opportunity to attack those whose lifestyles are in conflict with the religious views of the Commission or the Reagan administration." But this caution was

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Phone Co. Fires Boston Gay PWA

By Jim Kiely

BOSTON — On July 25, Paul Cronan, a person with AIDS, received notice from the New England Telephone Company (NET) that he has been officially fired, or, as the company prefers, relegated to "non-employee" status. The move came only eleven days after the opening of *Cronan v. New England Telephone* in Suffolk Superior Court. In the case, Cronan alleges that the company forced him onto disability leave in May of 1985 because of his illness, and that it spread rumors about his health throughout the workplace, creating "an atmosphere of fear and hatred" to which he could not return. (*GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 22)

In an interview with *GCN*, Cronan voiced his concerns about the financial ramifications of being fired from NET. Prior to being placed on disability, Cronan was earning approximately \$2,438 per month. Once placed on disability, however, his monthly income was

reduced to about \$473, even though Cronan "wanted and was able to work at full capacity" during that time. On numerous occasions, he added, he contacted company officials to tell them that, if he could be "transferred to an office free of hostility — someplace where [his] safety would be assured — [he] would be willing to return to his original position." According to Cronan, NET replied that his request for a safe work environment amounted to a call for "unreasonable accommodations." "I am *still* physically able to work," added Cronan.

Because Cronan is now officially a "non-employee" of NET, the company has reduced his disability benefits to \$188 per month. "How do they expect me to live off that?" Cronan asked.

According to NET Public Relations Director, Jack Counter, NET will not cut off Cronan's

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News Notes

quote of the week

"It is well known that the RCP [Revolutionary Communist Party] regards homosexuality, and particularly male homosexuality, as a concentration of bourgeois ideology. But it must be clearly stated that the party is opposed to the persecution and discrimination of homosexuals in general."

— From "The American Response to AIDS, A Pogrom Waiting to Happen," in the Revolutionary Worker, newspaper of the RCP, January 13, 1986.

enter from the rear

BOSTON — An ad hoc group is sponsoring a community meeting to plan a march and rally protesting the Supreme Court's sodomy decision and Massachusetts' sodomy law. The march is planned for sometime in September. The meeting will be held August 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Piemonte Room at City Hall (enter from rear).

— Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

can't take a joke

LAS VEGAS — It seems that people still can't take Joan Rivers' jokes. In fact she is threatening Frank Marino, who impersonates Rivers in a Las Vegas show, with a lawsuit for doing just that, according to a report in the *National Inquirer*. It seems that Joan thinks too much of her current Las Vegas act has been stolen for Marino's portion of the revue "An Evening at La Cage."

Rivers' lawyer said that up to eighty percent of Marino's act was taken from Rivers' current material. "Joan has been very friendly to him," he continued. "She told him, 'You can use my old material. But please don't do the jokes that I'm using now.'"

Marino, on the other hand, says he uses "very few of [Rivers'] jokes." He conceded that it was an unwritten rule that comedians shouldn't use each other's material. "But I'm impersonating the woman, so it's kind of hard not to."

Marino, who appears slightly taller and blonder than the real Rivers, and has a more subdued taste in jewelry, had first met the comedian three years ago. The lighter mood of that occasion, during which Joan complimented Frank and asked the name of his dress designer, seems a thing of the past now.

— Jim Fauntleroy

afscme affirms support of gay/lesbian issues

CHICAGO — The over 3,000 delegates at the 27th International Convention of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), meeting here from June 23 to 27, reaffirmed the union's support of gay and lesbian rights. AFSCME, the largest union in the AFL-CIO, has over 1.1 million members.

Specifically, resolutions were passed in support of contractual protections for lesbians and gay men, support for people with AIDS, and for general lesbian/gay rights.

The resolution concerning contractual protections makes it the policy of the union that language banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation be included in AFSCME-negotiated contracts.

AFSCME also once again endorsed "the enactment of legislation at every level of government to guarantee the rights of gay and lesbian citizens and called upon AFSCME membership and staff to support the passage of such legislation."

In a resolution of affirmative action, the delegates agreed that "AFSCME councils and locals will vigorously pursue affirmative action at the bargaining table to ensure that public employers maintain personnel systems that do not discriminate against anyone by virtue of their . . . sexual orientation."

The union also affirmed policies offering AIDS education for AFSCME members having contact with people with AIDS (PWAs) and lobbying the federal government to make AIDS research a higher priority and to provide medical support for PWAs. The convention also resolved to oppose any routine screening of employees in the workplace for HTLV-III antibodies and that AFSCME fight discrimination against PWAs.

On June 25, lesbian and gay delegates to the convention convened their own meeting. The approximately 15 delegates present discussed building a nationwide lesbian/gay caucus. In order to begin organizing the caucus, it was decided to initiate meetings in every AFSCME council for gay and lesbian members and to publish a newsletter for AFSCME gay and lesbian delegates.

Those wishing to receive the newsletter should contact: Brint Butchart, 2538 N. 52 Street, Apt. 7, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

— Stephanie Poggi

justice-watch continues

NEW YORK — The Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Rights (CLGR) is sponsoring a demonstration, August 11, in honor of Chief Justice Warren Burger and other Supreme Court Justices. The Supremes, who recently ruled that states may ban lesbian/gay consensual sex in private, are slated to address the American Bar Association at the Hilton Hotel on 53rd and 6th Ave. The protest from 4-7 p.m. outside the Hilton will include street theater and other pro-sodomy activities.

For more information, call CLGR at (212) 627-1398.

— Stephanie Poggi



Debbie Rich

karen thompson speaks in boston

BOSTON — Karen Thompson spoke July 25 at the Boston Self-Help Center to raise funds for and publicize her legal battle to regain visitation rights to her disabled lover, Sharon Kowalski. Kowalski's parents have denied Thompson the right to visit her. (see GCN, Vol. 14, No. 42)

Approximately 80 people, most of whom were lesbians, attended the event, sponsored by Gay Community News and the Self-Help Center.

To join on-going organizing around the case in the Boston area, call (617) 426-4469. To join organizing elsewhere, write the Minnesota Society for Personal Liberties, c/o Suzanne Born, 3436 Holmes Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408. Note: Some fliers distributed nationally about the case give an incorrect address for Suzanne Born. The correct address is printed above.

— Stephanie Poggi

beware nonoxynol-9

BOSTON — Health Educators with the AIDS Action Committee have cautioned against the use of condoms and lubricants containing the chemical Nonoxynol-9, according to the AIDS Action Committee Update.

The chemical, which is widely used in spermicidal creams, jellies, and foams, has not been tested on either live animals or humans to determine its effect on rectal tissue. "Carcinogenicity of this product in the rectal area has not been answered — let alone studied," said Dennis James, a health educator with the committee.

"The use of a condom with a water-soluble lubricant is still advised for rectal sexual activity in order to decrease the chances of transmitting disease," he added.

— Jim Fauntleroy

obviously an oversight

PALO ALTO, CA — Stanford University gave lesbian student activist Noelle Hanrahan its highest honor during graduation exercises, but neglected to mention that the award was for her lesbian and feminist work on campus, according to the *Advocate*.

Hanrahan was cited for "her exuberant and determined involvement in teaching, curriculum building, committee leadership, and public service," by University President Donald Kennedy. The public in attendance, though, was left wondering exactly which causes had so inspired the honoree.

Hanrahan said she is still working on the administration: "It was such a wonderful educational opportunity to mention, as a matter of accuracy, the wellspring of all my other involvements: my lesbian identity. We had discussed this issue of making gay people 'invisible' with President Kennedy. I need to find out where the breakdown in communication keeps occurring and try to see that it is mended."

— Jim Fauntleroy

skinny or bust

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Even grade school girls are now dieting, according to a report in *New Age* on a study by a University of California professor. Preliminary results of the study show that nearly 80 percent of fourth grade girls in the Bay Area are "watching their weight." A recent *Wall Street Journal* survey of students at four Chicago-area schools revealed similar numbers, with more than half the fourth grade girls saying they diet and 75 percent saying they believe they are "overweight."

The thin mania, which affects twice as many women as men, has even struck younger ages — albeit without their knowledge. New studies now show increasing numbers of parents are putting their infants on low-calorie and low-carbohydrate diets. The dieting babies have tended to grow more slowly and develop more slowly than their non-dieting counterparts.

Of course, college-aged women continue the elusive pursuit of the "Twiggy" image in droves. A Stanford University study shows 13 percent of all California college sophomores occasionally induce vomiting, or take laxatives or diuretics to lose weight.

At the University of Alabama, 19 percent of all first-year women say they often use diet pills, while 16 percent cite vomiting as their preferred method of "slimming." In 1965, only six percent of the first-year women used diet pills and one percent cited vomiting as their preferred method.

The University of Alabama's study also found that 47 percent of the first-year women fast, as compared to 18 percent in 1965.

— Stephanie Poggi

the bashing continues

BOSTON — A gay man who wishes to remain anonymous was punched in the jaw July 19 at a rest area at the Metropolitan District Commission's Turtle Pond. According to the man, three other gay men have been attacked in the area in the last few months by the same man who hit him. The attacker, who has also reportedly been seen in the Blue Hills, is described as white, 19 or 20 years of age, tan, stocky, with brown hair.

The man assaulted on July 19 said he was followed to his car in the parking lot nearby after the initial attack, where the young man threw a boulder at him. Another man in the lot attempted to intervene, and the attacker told him, "What are you? — a fucking queer, too? I'm gonna get you, too."

In the three earlier attacks at Turtle Pond, presumably by the same man, a gay man's jaw was broken, a man was punched, knocked down and robbed, and another man was chased out of the area. The man who was robbed was told he would be killed if the attacker ever saw him again.

The gay man attacked most recently told GCN he reported the assault to the police, but that he was skeptical of any outcome. "The police might say, 'Hey this kid [the attacker] is helping us clean up the area.'"

— Stephanie Poggi

lesbian witch draws fundamentalist ire

SAN JOSE, CA — A lecture by lesbian-feminist author and witch Zsuzsanna Budapest pulled out the fundamentalists in droves on July 12. The lecture at a public library branch attracted over 1000 protesters, and about 100 supporters who staged a simultaneous counter-demonstration, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Christian opponents of the talk at the Santa Teresa library had earlier tried to block the lecture. They claimed the city was illegally supporting religious activity by paying Budapest \$50 to speak. But City Attorney Sandra Fox ruled the program was educational in intent and therefore legal.

While fundamentalists sang hymns and recited prayers outside the lecture hall, opponents inside complained about "evildoers and witches and satanists," according to a Budapest aide, Jan Houston. "There was very little real concern about separation of church and state," said Houston.

Budapest agreed, saying the opposition to her presentation was part of a growing right wing attack. "This protest is in the same historical picture as telling us what to do in the bedroom and telling us what books to read. It's the same strait-jacketing of the mind of America."

Owen Rowley, a gay witch from Palo Alto, who joined the counter-demonstrators chanting names of the goddess, said the fundamentalists seemed unaware Budapest is a lesbian. "It's probably just as well. They're uninformed on so many issues."

— Stephanie Poggi

Support Mixed for Lesbian Facing Discharge

By Kim Westheimer

Every time I put on my Guard uniform I feel a great sense of pride. It represents my country and wearing it reflects my love for my country. I feel that by challenging the military's effort to discharge me, I'm standing up for the right of all Americans to enjoy sexual expression without infringement. Here I am, fighting to protect the freedom of my country while my country is trying to take my freedom away!

— Lieutenant Ellen Nesbitt

NEW YORK — A second lieutenant in the New York Air National Guard, Nesbitt is determined not only to fight for her right to remain in the Guard, but also to overturn the laws prohibiting lesbians and gay men from participating in

end in an honorable or dishonorable discharge for Nesbitt. Since that time, Nesbitt has continued to serve her regular hours in the Guard: one weekend a month and two full weeks during the year. In addition she is a welfare examiner with the Nassau County Department of Social Services.

Nesbitt and Citizen Soldier, a non-profit GI/Veterans rights advocacy organization, have joined to fight the discharge proceedings. Nesbitt is also receiving support from the East End Gay Organization for Human Rights, The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the Lesbian Rights Project.

Nesbitt is represented by Citizen Soldier lawyer Louis Font, who has successfully argued Nesbitt's right to an efficiency board hearing. Without this hearing, the National Guard could hold a "discharge review" in the absence of

and is "looking for an opportunity to make a statement in an intelligent context."

Apuzzo urged lesbians and gay men to rally behind Nesbitt's fight to remain in the Guard. The politics of the military is not the issue, she said. "I may disagree with [Nesbitt's] choice [to be in the military] but I fully support her opportunity to make that choice," she explained.

When asked about the politics of being a member of the military, Nesbitt echoed Apuzzo's stance. "That's not an issue that should be dealt with," she said. "The issue is freedom of choice. We [lesbians and gay men] are fighting for freedom of choice — [for] what makes us feel good." Likewise, she added, "If I feel good about being in the military and [others] don't [feel good about this choice], then I don't want them to condemn me."

The politics of lesbian and gay military service have been debated for decades. A key argument in the defense of lesbian and gay participation in the military has been the assertion that for some people, due to race and class oppression, the military is a "last resort" opportunity for "secure employment."

Expounding on this point of view, Gil Gerald, executive director of the Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, told GCN, "I don't encourage people to go into the armed forces [but] particularly with people of color [the armed forces] affords some alternative to life in a society that denies people opportunities and access to jobs." In addition, said Gerald, the "Justice Department is closing in on gay men and lesbians. We have to get involved in more direct action to fight this injustice."

Gerald acknowledged that the military is an "institution [which] oppresses people around the world." Education about the function of the military should be part of every campaign for the rights of lesbians and gay men in the military, said Gerald.

Citing different reasons for supporting lesbians and gay men in the military, Roberta Achtenberg, attorney and director of the Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, said, "Whether you or I would join the military or whether the institution is worth defending is different than deciding whether to combat overt homophobia [in that institution.] Homophobic laws in the military cannot be isolated from

"If I feel good about being in the military and others don't, I don't want them to condemn me."

— Ellen Nesbitt

the military. Nesbitt's case and others like it have caused controversy in the progressive lesbian and gay community. The debate centers on whether the community should support any person's right to be a member of the military.

According to Kathleen Gilberd, a member of the National Lawyer's Guild Military Taskforce, nearly 2000 enlisted lesbians and gay men are discharged from the military annually because of their sexual preference.

The statute at the core of the military's discrimination against lesbians and gay men is Department of Defense directive 1332.14 which states, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The presence in the military environment of persons who engage in homosexual conduct, or who, by their statements, demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct, seriously impairs the accomplishment of the military mission. The presence of such members adversely affects the ability of the Military Services to . . . facilitate assignment and worldwide deployment of service members who frequently must live and work under close conditions affording minimal privacy . . . to maintain the public acceptability of the military service; and to prevent breaches of security."

Nesbitt discovered that, as this statute implies, merely stating that you are a lesbian, is grounds for a military discharge.

In February of 1985, Nesbitt, who was serving at Roslyn Air National Guard on Long Island, was promoted to second lieutenant. As a result of her new rank, the Air Guard investigated her personal life to determine if she was a "security risk." In July of 1985, during the interview portion of this investigation, Nesbitt was asked if she could best be described as "bisexual, homosexual or heterosexual."

In deciding to answer "homosexual," Nesbitt recognized that she was jeopardizing her career, but, she told GCN, "I've never been ashamed of who I am." Nesbitt added, "I realized the importance of the security check and I didn't want to lie."

Four months later, her commanding officer was instructed to initiate "separation" proceedings which could

Nesbitt or an attorney in her defense. In the efficiency board hearing, Nesbitt and her defense will be able to call co-workers and "experts" to testify on her behalf.

Todd Ensign, of Citizen Soldier, told GCN one of the factors in changing the Guard's mind about the hearing was pressure from New York State Governor Mario Cuomo. However, said Ensign, Cuomo could be doing more. The governor, who two years ago issued an executive order banning discrimination against lesbian and gay state workers, is also the commander-in-chief of the New York Air Guard. Cuomo could use his power to block discharge proceedings, asserts Ensign.

"There is a Supreme Court regulation stating that State Guard members are state employees not federal officers," said Ensign. "Ellen's a state employee who should be protected under the executive order." Other governors have overruled federal decisions regarding the State Guard, added Ensign. Earlier this year, governors from six states, including New York, refused to allow their State Guards to be dispatched to Honduras.

Ginny Apuzzo, Cuomo's liaison to the New York les-

"We don't want to fight for the right of gay men and lesbians to be a part of something so inherently discriminatory."

— Sally Thomas

bian and gay community, told GCN Cuomo does not have as much power as Ensign claims. "The New York State National Guard falls indisputably under the jurisdiction of the uniform code of military justice [which is federally regulated]. This leaves the governor less potent than I would want." As to the example of governors refusing to allow troops in Honduras, Apuzzo said, "in peace a governor can refuse [to allow] the military to be taken from the state." The governor can not, she stressed, "impose regulations." Cuomo is fully aware of the situation, said Apuzzo,

the homophobia in civil law because they influence civil law," said Achtenberg. For example, she said, in the Supreme Court's recent sodomy decision, Justice Byron White cited a military discharge of a gay man, in the case of *Dronenberg v. Zech*, as an example to support state's rights to sodomy laws.

On the other end of the spectrum regarding lesbian and gay men in the military, Felice Shays, a lesbian activist and member of the Boston area lesbian affinity group, Positively Revolting, said, "I think that [Nesbitt] is fighting a

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Lev Dies Surrounded by Network of Women

By Monica Raymond

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Bobbi Lev died June 25, 1986, in her home on Gray Street. At 38, she had lived in the Boston area since 1972 and had been involved in its lesbian feminist community for almost as long.

Bobbi worked as a masseuse and astrologer, out of her home and through Ananda, a massage collective, and the now defunct Women's Community School at Tufts University. Women bartered for her services as well as paid for them. "Her strongest need was to develop a network by interchanging skills," said Aviva Schmuckler. It was this same network that helped her when she became ill with inflammatory breast cancer.

Bobbi had been friend and informal advisor to many women in the community. She called herself a "Jewish witch," a unique perspective which encompassed her academic studies in anthropology and public health, her interest in dance and the body, and her need for an holistic spirituality. To friends in crisis, she brought counseling skills; a knowledge of oppression that stemmed from her own experience as a woman, lesbian and Jew, but extended far beyond it; and a knowledge of the stars. Acutely conscious of the connection between global problems and personal ones, she worked with Interhelp, a network that helps people to deal with and move beyond their despair at the state of the world.

Bobbi herself struggled with depression, with hypoglycemia, and with the cancer that ultimately killed her. Her cancer, diagnosed in July 1984, was already so far progressed that doctors gave her scant hope. She decided to fight anyway, using both Western and alternative therapies, and calling on friends to come together to work with her through poetry, music and movement. "There were aspects of this stuff with Bobbi that were like political organizing," said Beverly Smith. "If there's a problem, we call a meeting and we had many, many meetings."

Women also drove her to chemotherapy and cleaned and cooked for her. Local women stayed in touch when Bobbi left Cambridge in the Fall of 1985 for California, where she hoped to heal herself through dance therapy. Later, many visited her at her parent's house in Youngstown Ohio.

By Spring of 1986, it was clear to her friends that Bobbi needed to come back to Cambridge. "She was getting good care at home [Ohio]," said Margaret Hackman, friend and trained nurse, "but spiritually she was wilting. And her friends were here." Hackman agreed to coordinate care for Bobbi, and through cooperation with Bobbi's family and Hospice of Cambridge, friends brought her back to Cambridge in April. "I got a great sense of personal competence and power," Smith re-

calls, "from knowing that Bobbi could die where she wanted to die and I could be extremely helpful in that process."

Bobbi's mother and brother Howard arrived to help share in the caretaking, and Hackman organized nursing shifts for over twenty women, friends, friends of friends, volunteers and home health aides. Other visitors came from as far away as North Carolina to play bedside concerts, guide meditations, and talk about life and death. Bobbi's openness, her "generosity with her dying" let some women move to a new sense of caring, a new confrontation with their own fear of death. "When you feel fear," said Annie Hoffman, who visited Bobbi often in her last weeks, "you can do two things. You can pull back, pull away, and sometimes something's just enough of a challenge that if you go into it, there's an incredible transformation."

While stressing that it's important "not to romanticize dying," many women also spoke of the sense of power and community they felt during the process of caring for Bobbi. "She taught me to appreciate myself more in seeing the strength I did have in helping her," said Carole Fer. Hackman, who put in thirty hours a week of volunteer nursing care in addition to organizing, spoke of her own support network: a lover, friends of hers who didn't know Bobbi, and friends of Bobbi's who were concerned for her as well as for

Bobbi. "There were the helpers," she said, "and there were the helpers' helpers." Smith called the support network around Bobbi's death "the most heartening and reinspiring experience of feminism that I've had for some time."

Because of the number of women who were involved in Bobbi's dying and the circles of support they created, it seemed no corner of the women's community was untouched by this death. Connections between people, between us and the earth, between us and the enormous forces that govern us — Bobbi worked to cultivate them

all. In an interview she gave with *Woman of Power*, Bobbi described absence of connection as the original cause of cancer. But her death of cancer revealed and helped deepen some of the connections she had struggled to build. "I can't tell you the number of people who've heard about this," said Smith. "Because Bobbi wove this community together, that was her political work. And because there's still a women's community, and it's amazing that there is. We're an incredible conspiracy. This gave us some kind of marker that we are still connected."



Margaret Dozer

Community Voices

we remember mel's commitment

Dear GCN:

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, formed in May 1985 to oppose the Massachusetts foster care policy, is not in the habit of endorsing candidates; participation in the electoral arena is not one of our priorities. Our decision to endorse Mel King in the 8th Congressional District race is an unusual step for us, a step we take because Mel's candidacy is a break with "politics as usual."

Foremost in our considerations is the fact that, alone among the candidates, Mel King refused to endorse Governor Dukakis "if for no other reason than the governor's foster care policy." An endorsement of Governor Dukakis, as Mel King understood, is an endorsement of the denial of humanity to lesbians and gay men. We are confirmed in this view by the governor's recent motion to dismiss the civil rights suit brought by GLAD, the National Association of Social Workers and the ACLU against the foster care policy. His legal arguments invoke the sodomy laws in defense of the state's decision to deny lesbians and gay men the right to be foster parents. Mel's stand with the lesbian and gay community, around an issue of such fundamental importance, is consistent with our experience of his commitments.

We remember that Mel, along with Barney Frank, was the first sponsor of gay rights legislation in Massachusetts thirteen years ago. We remember when Anita Bryant came to town, and our own state rep., Elaine Noble, tried to get our permits to demonstrate cancelled, that Mel King, also a state rep., immediately supported our demonstration and agreed to speak. We remember Mel's presence and speech at the candlelight march in the Fenway following the murder of a gay man in 1979. We remember Mel's marching in Gay Pride every year, with us, not simply making an appearance at the rally at the end. We remember Mel's visits to gay bars during the mayoral campaign, and his statement that "there's a little gay in all of us."

We believe that sending Mel King to Congress means more than sending a good person who will vote right on the issues. Mel's commitment in electoral activity has been not to empower himself, but to empower those whose voices are not represented. He will strengthen the Black congressional caucus, an important congressional ally of gay rights, and a crucial alternative power base within Congress. This is an election in which the lesbian/gay vote can make the difference. (Some estimates put the figure as high as 20% of the voting population of the 8th District). It is a critical time for our community, in the face of the escalating attacks against us, to decide and make a statement about what kinds of alliances will secure our future. We need a bold political offensive, outside and inside the Congress, against the frightening implications of the Justice Department's HTLV-III screening decision, against the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling, against such homophobic policies as the Massachusetts foster care decision. Mel King's record shows that he takes initiative and is effective. He has the political courage to take unpopular stands, and see them through. From our own experience, he presents a vision that continues to inspire us as we seek to change American society. The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee Boston, MA

gay news banned in guatemala

Dear GCN:

Thank you so much for all the material you kindly sent me. I have read it all and found GCN one of the most valuable sources of information, plus the priceless service it gives to the gay community and moral support to all prisoners.

Actually I wish I could be there to help, since you seem to be short of people. I have previous experience in journalism and I belong to the Guatemalan Student Newspaper Association, but gay news is banned here by authorities and Catholic Church, two strong powers who try by all means to keep people ignorant so it becomes easier to handle them.

I can see that frequently you have vacancies. If you think that any of these positions could be suitable for me, let me know. I'm always open to new experiences and I need that kind of environment to learn more and to be more useful to the gay community. Please do not forget that I do not have American residence or citizenship. But visa to travel I do have.

Dollars are hard to find here, but I'll try to send my contribution as soon as possible. I'll translate articles for the gay community members who live in prison here who I visit every Wednesday.

We all appreciate your kind cooperation, Much love and peace to all our brothers and sisters, Karlo Zelada PO Box 2359 Guatemala City Guatemala, Central America

the tribe of dina was left out

Dear GCN:

Given the recent acknowledgement by your collective of GCN's insufficient attention to issues of Jewish identity and anti-Semitism, I was disappointed and disturbed to see that among 15 books briefly reviewed for summer reading, *The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Woman's Anthology*, two months off the press, was not mentioned. *Dina*, co-edited by Irena Klepfisz and myself, contains work by over 40 women including many lesbians from the U.S., China, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Syria, Argentina . . . It includes important essays and interviews on Jewish culture, on radical activism, on the peace and feminist movements in Israel, in addition to fine fiction, poetry, historical photographs, etc. And there is nothing like it in the feminist or Jewish world.

In addition, *Dina* was published as a special double issue of *SINISTER WISDOM*, one of the oldest lesbian/feminist journals (since 1976). A copy of *Dina* was sent to GCN, along with a press release. Was this ground-breaking collection not considered significant enough for mention?

One added note. Your article on HOWL — the purchase of open women's land in Vermont — mentioned that \$3000 had been raised in response to "a mailing" that went out to 1200 women. GCN readers might like to know that the mailing was to *SINISTER WISDOM* subscribers; the HOWL women stuffed their request in the last issue of *SW*, thus raising the money with no outlay for postage, envelopes, etc.

SINISTER WISDOM and *The Tribe of Dina* in particular deserve better treatment from the radical gay press.

In struggle, Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz Montpelier, VT

ladies against women responds

Dear GCN:

Now that the Plutes are back for a rest between our travels, several friends have shown me the letters about our Boston performance of LADIES AGAINST WOMEN which appeared in GCN. I wish we'd been contacted before publication so that we could have had a dialogue in the same issue, but then again the elapsed time may aid reflection.

There were some misquotations of a conversation with another member of the cast after the show, but rather than nitpick about misinterpretation, I want to address the real issues I see in the problem of characterizing American reactionary forces.

The characters who disturbed those two audience members the most are beer-drinking macho urban hunters, members of the National Association of Grenade Owners, Rambo fans and champions of the use of the right to bear armaments as a remedy against all other civil liberties. A good question posed here is whether indeed "uneducated working class people" are part of our society's problem. I guess I disagree with the letter writers, I think that the American worker in general has very little class consciousness or solidarity and that education and organizing are ongoing needs. But perhaps that is because all of my history in the workforce has been in more or less underclass jobs, from hotel maid to hospital file clerk to restaurant worker. It's frightening to see young exploited workers who identify with Reagan and think they will somehow "make it" through a stroke of luck.

Now, I started doing political theater with one rule which was handed down to me by street artists I admired. *Never show workers as bad guys*. Over the past ten years, in creating a vast array of bad guys, I have found that this rule must be carefully broken. My favorite characters are those who are uncomfortably close to me in certain attitudes and behaviors. I may be able to influence them, or to change those aspects of my behavior which are reminiscent of theirs.

Our most powerful oppressors in this country are supported by many working people who are reacting in bigotted and repressive ways to try to address real fears and problems. So the best satire would seem to be the acknowledgement of the stresses, and the ridicule of the logic that leads to the twisted ideology. Presuming that working people are a major part of the audience, and that the ultra powerful are not, this seems like a good tact to take.

Most people don't feel that we are attacking whole classes with these characters; we are lampooning specific attitudes. And women who work in their homes love that Mrs. Cholesterol has money from the margarine ranch, and really doesn't need to do her recreational housework. A performance for union organizers in a retreat near a hunting lodge gave the best reaction ever on the grenade lovers. These audience members did not think they were being stereotyped, they got that we were looking at specific characters with specific weird beliefs. If some guys who want to carry grenades and use them against "peace terrorists" in urban centers remind you of someone you love, then I challenge you to confront your people on their politics, and if they just drink the same beer, I don't think you have to be taken by some profound symbolism.

prisoners with aids just have each other

Dear GCN:

Just a few lines to say 'yes' we are still getting your paper. Here in isolation it's the only news we get. We are hidden out of sight here so they don't have to explain what they are doing for us (nothing) and why.

There are no groups as far as I can tell for gay prisoners with AIDS to talk to. The free world groups such as the Guild Aids Network and the various AIDS Action Committees won't do anything for prisoners. If you are a queen in the free world they will break their ass to help you. I have stopped writing to any of them for help. If you have any ideas of who I can write for help, please let me know. With each passing day the condition gets worse. They have 15 of us AIDS patients here in an area meant for 5 people. The medical staff stay away from us as much as they can.

I go from day to day doing my best to help everyone here keep their spirits up. We do have each other at least. Maybe they think I'm crazy telling jokes and trying to get some smiles on our faces. The truth of the matter is my heart is broken anew each day or night as I often have to hold one of the guys who are crying because they are lonely because no one cares.

Well, sorry for bending your ear so much but I have to tell someone too, and I was feeling sorry for myself today and knew you would understand there. You people at GCN are really great people. Your brother in life, Ed Bubbenmoyer

M-7873 Box 200 Camp Hill, PA 17011

Another point in criticism which bugs me is that ageist attitude that Right-wing teenagers are victims. Sure, they are. Anyone who embraces oppression is a victim. But when you look at the high school students who do not embrace the prom-queen power structure, you remember that there is a whole lot of choice of identity at age 16. Surely poking fun at a member of the "Moral Sorority" (and a fictitious one) is as clarifying as poking fun at Phyllis Schafly. When I was in high school, trying to find dignity as a leftist-feminist-bisexual-fat-intellectual-teen, I saw the conservative kids as making their ugly choices with full knowledge and free will. Now I feel that they have some time, as we all do. And some of them do change. All the more reason to tease then now so they can notice their contradictions.

Hey, I don't want to shoot these people! Ridiculing all the offending portions of their ideologies seems more to the point, more civilized, and more hopeful of change. Now, the "classy" targets in our show are less likable, but perhaps the millionaire lady or the Colonel will remind you of someone you know from another class, gender or sexual orientation. That is the other side of satire which is so powerful. Some of the arrogant posturing on stage should look familiar to almost everyone.

Well, ya can't amuse all of the people all of the time, but thanks to the production group from GCN, it was a warm and wild audience and a lot of fun. I hate to sound liberal-wishy-washy, but the criticisms were actually constructive once we calmed down and got beyond the tone in which they were expressed.

Anyone who wonders what I'm talking about, or who needs another session to see if the show is funny and why, can catch an upcoming Boston show on August 1st for Mass Choice, and August 2nd in Northampton. The shows are a bit pricey, and you should have heard our debate about our responsibility to raise funds for causes which benefit low income women versus our commitment to keep low income people in our audiences. Our compromise for August 1st: we will do a free participatory performance in front of the State House at noon. Watch for us, it should be fun.

Keep on doing what you do so well at GCN, and thanks for giving me a chance to ponder the serious side of humor here.

Playing for change Gail Ann Williams Plutonium Players collective member Berkeley, CA

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GayCommunityNews

Cover Design by Ina Cohen

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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Lesbian Sexuality: Can "Real Women" Fight Fascism?

By Mary Fridley

The following is an excerpt from a presentation made on "Lesbian Sexuality" at a two-day Women's Institute run by the American Orthopsychiatric Association Conference in Chicago, April, 1986.

I am pleased to be here today. I'm a practicing Social Therapist who sees both men and women, gay and straight, in my practice. I want to spend time talking about the kinds of issues that come up for lesbians in my practice, but first wanted to talk a little bit about what it means to be working with an Insititue that is *pro-gay*.

The Institute for Social Therapy and Research is a complex of independently funded, community-based education, social service and cultural facilities that was established over 10 years ago. The centerpiece of the Institute is Social Therapy, a humanistic, pro-gay *activistic* therapy — which means we take problems out of people's heads and locate them in a historical, social and political context, and at the same time, empower people to do something about them. This means, among other things, that we take homophobia, not homosexuality, to be the social phenomenon that destroys human potential and development for gay *and* straight people. How do we view homosexuality? As a *social protest* against the social, emotional and sexual repression and oppression particularly as it is organized by the family. We understand the origins of homosexuality are fundamentally social/historic, not genetic or even gender-identified, nor as an expression of creative free will. Many view this as a radical statement and it is, because we at the Institute are radicals.

For example, we don't think it's an understatement to say that, in 1986, the message to all progressive people, but particularly to lesbians and gay men, is "go back in the closet and take your sexuality with you." The response on the part of many lesbians and gay men once again reflects the understandable, but dangerously mythical, view that if we act just like "normal" (read: straight) people, we can escape the brutalizing impact of major social institutions (including that of sexuality) being more and more determined by reactionary forces. So, for example, many lesbians are having babies and rearing families. While I am not anti-motherhood, I am struck by the fact that while this is happening there is virtually no self-conscious dialogue on the effectiveness of having babies as a response to rising homophobia. For if we engaged in that dialogue, I think many of us would see that having babies, as a thing in itself, is not a terribly progressive expression of our sexuality, but rather an impotent response to these attacks on our humanness.

I want to go more into exploring how an increasingly repressive social climate actually impacts on our sexuality by talking about a small group session I do with six lesbians — different ages, class backgrounds, some are politically active, some aren't, Jewish and non-Jewish, etc. We've been doing some really hard work on them talking to each other about being lesbians, what they think that means — this dialogue grew out of difficulties they were all having doing relationships and being intimate.

We started talking about sex, and how everyone thought, or had been told, that making love to a women was easy because you "knew what to do" — you knew her body, it's beautiful, etc. We found out that this wasn't entirely true, that in fact, women had a pretty hard time making love to other women, and had figured out ways of doing it that covered over the fact that the other person in bed with them was a woman. As a result, everyone was humiliated, in part because they thought they had failed at something "they should know

how to do."

These are women who came out in the "liberated" generation; but their models for doing relationships were very conservative: they were consumed by monogamy, "making sure the other person comes," good sex being the bottom line of the relationship — in other words, trying to have "good" traditional relationships. I then raised how crazy-making it was to try and legitimize something (in this case, their relationships) that aren't legitimate, and further, can *never* be legitimate. If there was going to be real intimacy in these relationships, we would have to explore why they thought if they did all these things, they would be able to be "accepted," that is, intimate — even though in reality, it is very alienating and painful.

What then opened up was how common role playing is when women have sex with other women. The role playing, among other things, covers over the disgust and awkwardness that women feel, not only while doing sex, but even while being overtly sexual — for example being attracted to other women. The role playing looked different for different women — one woman doesn't make love to other women, one woman only has love made to her, one woman only has sex when she drinks.

I kept pushing, and finally opened up that no one was talking about themselves as women — other women are women, but being a lesbian means you are not a "real" woman, and therefore no one thought they could, or should, teach other women to come out. We discovered that we have all made very painful and self-destructive deals to be lesbians, and one of them is that you can't have anything you achieve as a lesbian. If you're successful, it's because you are a "human being," not because you're a lesbian. Lesbianism gets relegated to the bedroom.

I asked one woman to talk very specifically about how it was she understood becoming a lesbian. She started talking about not wanting to live the life she saw her mother living — raising children, having an alcoholic husband; and she also didn't want to become a nun (they were a Catholic family) — so she thought she became a lesbian by default. What I finally raised was that it was clear that they didn't know that the ways they talked about themselves as lesbians weren't true — they were myths — vicious and homophobic myths — but myths. Myths that served to deny that the moves they had made in their lives were an expression of being *anti-oppression*, because, in reality, the family is a very oppressive institution — for all people. Gay people are generally accused of destroying the family. In Social Therapy, we help all people, gay and straight, stand up and say no, it's the family that's destroying us, and we have to do something about it.

The reason I'm emphasizing this is because to not see homosexuality as fundamentally anti-oppression is robbing lesbians of something that is the basis for continued progressive development rather than something to be defensive or ashamed about, and all of us have lived most of our lives being ashamed of ourselves. We can either be tough or we can be crazy. Either way, what we are rarely allowed to do is talk about our *conflicts* about being lesbians or gay men. If you're conflicted, we're told, you're not gay enough.

Of course, for many, being conflicted is considered a basic form of maladaptation and it makes it harder to convince the straight world that "we are just like them." Does this mean I think gay and straight people aren't alike? No, indeed, we are all too alike, as long as free will or gender are the only determining factors. However, if one's organized statement of protest is the fundamental criteria, then we begin to find out who is gay and who is straight and I don't think it has a lot to do with who you are sleeping with.

Mary Fridley is the national coordinator of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the New Alliance Party, located in New York.

Community Voices

no less a tragedy

Dear GCN:

The graphic logo for the AIDS Action Committee's "From All Walks of Life" fundraiser pictured a heterosexual couple with two children, two single parents with children, and three single individuals (2 male/1 female) standing alone. In a recent political forum I remarked, in reaction to the logo, that I felt "not entirely welcome" as a gay man. Many in the audience responded with similar perceptions.

Mark Joseph Krier, in a letter to GCN, found that reaction "absurd." As a committed supporter of the AAC's excellent work including that walk, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify my reaction.

From the beginning, AIDS has struck primarily, though certainly not exclusively, gay men. From the beginning, the bulk of private funds have been raised from within our community. And from the beginning, it has been a homophobic society's perception of this as a gay disease that has impeded an efficient and humane response.

Combating society's apathy is clearly a challenging task with many potential strategies. As I see it, there are at least two quite different responses possible to the "AIDS is a gay disease" predicament. One is to say, "Oh, no, AIDS is not a gay disease." The other is to say "Even if AIDS were 100% confined to gay men, it would deserve a committed response from society." My concern is that, to the extent we concentrate on the former, we implicitly confirm that AIDS is a priority *only insofar as it affects heterosexuals*.

I don't believe the figures for the graphic were accidentally chosen because "you can't fit the whole world on a T-shirt." If we are representing people affected by AIDS, the majority of them would be gay men who could be pictured just as easily in relationships as the heterosexuals so displayed. I would imagine that a conscious decision was made not to overtly display gay people in order to broaden the campaign's appeal. When gay men like me perceive these campaigns as being broadened through our implicit invisibility, we feel unwelcome as though our visibility is a liability.

Mr. Krier remarks on the tragedy of "children born dying before they've had a chance at life." I think it is no less a tragedy that gay men are being plucked from the midst of theirs. I want society at large to care just as much about *that* tragedy, which requires that we testify to it and attest to its crisis proportions.

Sincerely,
John Whyte
Boston, MA

real crimes against nature

Dear GCN:

This is mainly aimed at our people on the outside who have no idea of how much crime prison guards get away with, where if these acts involved we inmates or people on the outside, we would get arrested or spend time in the hole [isolation].

For example, I am a nature and wildlife lover and this one day there was an injured seagull laying outside our unit, so I let the guards know, without thinking what these stupid people would do.

I don't know about any other state, but in Washington these birds are protected by law. Well, from my cell window I watched two prison guards go out and kill this bird, without thinking that the bird just might with medical help be able to be fixed up and returned with its fellow gulls.

I asked them, why didn't they get ahold of the zoo vets to take care of this. I was told it's none of my business.

To me nature is everyone's business.

This is only one example.

Two days ago, our unit supervisor had some inmates remove a sparrow nest with eggs from the bracket on which hangs the security camera. The nest had eggs in it. The place where they placed the nest was out where crows or gulls could rob the eggs. So our unit supervisor as far as I'm concerned murdered the baby sparrows. This was needless and uncalled for.

The nest was not in the way of security. It wasn't covering the camera. So why?

I wish someone on the outside would write some very nasty letters to our so-called 'corrections' people letting them know that as a wildlife lover, we don't cotton to wanton murder of innocent birds who haven't done a thing to them except provide them with the beauty of nature.

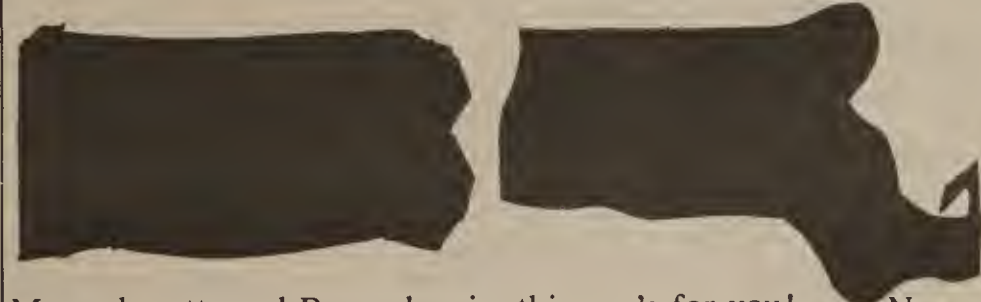
Being locked up as we are, we don't get too much of a chance at viewing nature and watching these sparrows is a welcome scene.

I don't know how many of our readers feel the same way about nature as I and a few of my closest friends do, but I would like to hear from those who do. If some of you want to write, please do.

Thanks,
James R. Cone
277249 Cedar G-11
Box 900
Shelton, WA 98584

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Joe Jackson: Friend or 'Phobe?

Joe Jackson, in concert. Great Woods Performance Center, Mansfield, Mass. July 14.

By Christopher Wittke

Pop star Joe Jackson has been searching for an identity since his auspicious debut during the late-'70s British new wave movement. His July 14 concert at Great Woods in Mansfield, Ma., proved that he is no closer to that goal today than he was eight years ago.

Originally considered by many

critics to be a sort of poor man's Elvis Costello, Jackson has often tried out different musical styles in an attempt to keep his fans guessing. His *Jumpin' Jive* lp was nothing if not unexpected from the man who brought us the minimalist pseudo-punk of "On Your Radio" a few years previous. His latest album, *Big World*, marks his return to melodic yet raucous rock and roll which surely has pleased many of his original fans.

And the fans turned out in force

at Great Woods, the Boston area's new outdoor facility. The crowd was not in what one could call a "Show me" mood, the fact that they gave Jackson a standing ovation as he took to the stage proved that they were simply overjoyed to have the man *show up*. That feverish response and Jackson's infamous negative attitude towards his fans contributed to a performance which was schizophrenic at best.

The program was divided into

to eat it all up. Actually they seemed to be eating (and drinking) everything up. People were constantly leaving their seats throughout the entire performance to purchase beer and popcorn and apple pie (I'm *not* kidding) as if this were not an actual live performance at all. And the crowd was an interesting mix, too. Mostly straight couples but a smattering of queers here and there.

The gays were probably first attracted to Jackson by his song "Real Men" ("...all the gays are macho, can't you see the leather shine..."), a straight/gay dichotomy ditty which was little more than a re-working of "It's Different For Girls." "Real Men," with its seemingly telling line, "So don't call me a faggot, not unless you are a friend..." is probably not the call to arms that many in the community first perceived it to be. It was not a declaration or even a pro-gay sentiment on Jackson's part upon further inspection. Perhaps his song "Cancer," from his middle jazz-rock period, was about AIDS, Jackson was living in New York at that time and the epidemic was just taking hold then. He introduced the song in performance by saying, "This isn't about any disease, it's about paranoia..." and sang "...everything gives you cancer, there's no cure, there's no answer..."

Speaking between almost every song as he did, there was no chance for the program to develop momentum. At one moment Jackson wanted to appear the serious artist as he told a fan who had shouted out a request, "We'll do fine without the prompting, thank you." The next he was stuffing a pillow up his shirt to act the part of the ugly American tourist in the scathingly accurate "Jet Set."

Jackson had changed the lyrics to one of his oldest songs, "Sunday Papers" to include some wonderful anti-Reagan statements. Perhaps if it had been possible to make out the lyrics to one of the last songs of the evening, "Don't Wanna Be Like That," we could have heard if he had altered that song from 1979 with its telling line "...the Playboy centerfold leaves me cold, and that ain't cause I'm a fag, you playboys can just go play with yourself, that's your style, 'cause that's a drag."

Just tell me that Joe Jackson is more politically correct than Dire Straits!

three sections, distinguishable only by the fact that slide projections on the side of the stage informed us that we were now watching "Part 1, 2, or 3." Jackson performed his weak attempt at lampooning sexual politics, "It's Different For Girls" along with some other relatively slow numbers during the middle section. Unfortunately, this was the only time his vocals were discernable in the sound mix.

The audience, however, seemed



Sue Hadjopoulos, Graham Maby, Joe Jackson and Larry Tolfree: the band for Jackson's *Night and Day* album.

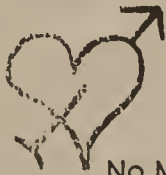
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New Album from Gay Brits

The Smiths Turn to Subtle Self-Parody

The Queen is Dead, a record by The Smiths, Sire Records/Rough Trade, 1986.

By Gerardo Maria Cabrera

The Smiths' newly released album, *The Queen is Dead* (Sire Records/Rough Trade...) reaffirms this British group's highly personal, somewhat controversial style and themes, and at the same time breaks away from their stereotypic images as a group for the terminally depressed.

Depression is a cliché in the '80s, a term which has lost its original weight and significance. Yet the Smiths show how modern youth consciousness has forged this term into a cultural metaphor. Youth has sanctified depression and transformed it into a higher state of being. A-bombs and AIDS, changing climates, starvation — all this profoundly affects the sensibility of '80s youth. Gay people in particular have responded to The Smiths' ability to capture the loneliness of growing up outside of conventional society, of not feeling part of the rest of the world. The Smiths' ambiguous, homoerotic lyrics, as well as the fact that the band is gay, have strengthened their draw to gay audiences.

Emotional and sexual alienation remain at the center of this new 10-song album, as they were in The Smiths' past albums, *The Smiths*, *Hatful of Hollow* and *Meat is Murder*. This unwavering focus on loneliness and despair is not surprising given Britain's economic and social problems; lead singer Morrissey's voice is the perfect vehicle for the sentiments of an aimless, angry class of people. Yet The Smiths' hopelessness has also turned listeners off. Their music seems at times too self-indulgent and self-pitying to be taken seriously. The good news for those who tired of The Smiths' self-pity is that *The Queen is Dead* has a sense of humor. It is sardonic, sometimes bitter, but sounds and feels very natural, too. I always suspected that Morrissey could laugh.

The Queen is Dead title cut gives listeners an immediate feel for how much lighter this work is than earlier albums. In it, Morrissey sneaks into Buckingham Palace where the Queen recognizes him. She says, "Eh, I know you and you cannot sing." He replies, "That's nothing, you should hear me play piano." This is certainly

different from the Morrissey who sang "and if the day came when I felt a natural emotion/ I'd get such a shock I'd probably jump/in the ocean" in *Meat is Murder*. From impenetrable emotional isolation to making fun of himself: this is a significant change, for the better.

Likewise, in "Bigmouth Strikes Again," Morrissey paints himself as both martyr and criminal: "now I know how Joan of Arc felt/... Bigmouth strikes again/ and I've got no right to take my place/ with the Human race." The irony is obvious and I'd venture to call it camp. Visions come to mind of Morrissey with a cape flying through the window like a superhero, only to stick his foot in his mouth, to say the wrong thing in a big way. Parallel to that image comes one of him being tied to a stake, ecstatic and delirious with pain as flames lick his body, feeling that this is a punishment worthy of *him*, the very worst of fender.

In a similar vein, The Smiths' by-now-traditional death-wish song turns into a subtle self-parody. In "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out," the dreamy and romantic lulling string arrangement by Johnny Marr turns these lines into a joke while Morrissey makes them sound thoroughly sincere: "and if a double-decker bus/ crashes into us/ to die by your side/ such a heavenly way to die."

"Vicar In A Tutu" is the most obviously humorous of the songs. Defending British eccentricity (Morrissey's hero being Oscar Wilde), he defends all those who dare to be different. As if to underscore this, he uses himself as an example: "the fabric of a tu-tu/ any man could get used to/ and I am a living sign." His enthusiasm is pretty funny, really, and he closes the tune with a convincing rodeo-style yodel.

On the serious side, there is a very pretty ballad "I Know It's Over." Morrissey's hauntingly unique voice — a pleading, exotic, proudly untrained yet lovely one — achieves a soulful quality not found in anything since some early



The Smiths as pictured on *The Queen is Dead* album: (l-r) Andy Rourke, Morrissey, Johnny Marr and Mike Joyce.

songs, "Back To The Old House" and "The Hand That Rocks The Cradle." His empathic power is evident. Morrissey performs the age-old task of giving voice to life's anonymous voiceless characters — the "sad-veiled bride" and the "loud loutish lover" in "I Know It's Over" — as he had earlier in the very disturbing "What She Said" on *Meat is Murder*.

Musically, the record is heavy on guitars (as were the others), especially acoustic. There is the addition of Johnny Marr's string arrangements, and the usual talented drums and bass of Mike Joyce and Andy Rourke. Overall, the sound is more refined and studio-sounding. The guitar on "The Boy With The Thorn In His Side" is particularly good. It has a certain Mexican-Spanish flavor which adds an emotional insistence to the lyrics.

Of the two songs that left me cold, "Never Had No One Ever" quickly fell into the morass of that helpless, pointless self-pity, not to mention the obscurity of the lyrics. This is The Smiths at their worst: decadent. After all, there are people worse off than Morrissey; he should only take his claim so far. "Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others" is kind of funny but reminds me, for some strange reason, of the theme from *Hawaii Five-O* or some other TV show. Oh well, maybe I just don't get the joke.

All in all, *The Queen is Dead* is a good collection of songs, and a change in attitude for the better. The way I look at it, if The Smiths can cheer up, then I can too. Morrissey and Marr make a great team (too often Marr is ignored) and the band as a whole works together well. With this album they seem to have matured; and hopefully they

will continue to do so both musically and personally. An unusually thoughtful group, The Smiths provide an outlet to express the sadness and gloom of human relationships. Now they offer a way to laugh too (albeit bitterly).

The Smiths will be appearing at Great Woods, near Boston, with lesbian musician Phranc on August 5. Look for more details in GCN's calendar.

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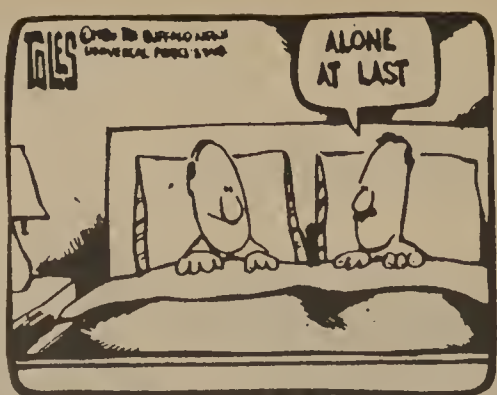
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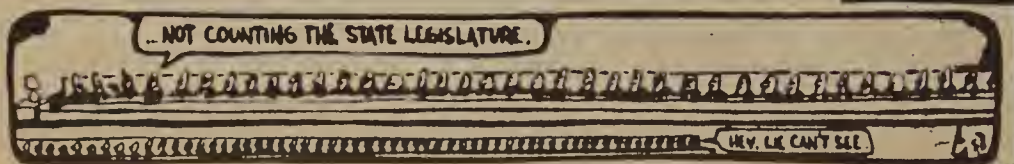
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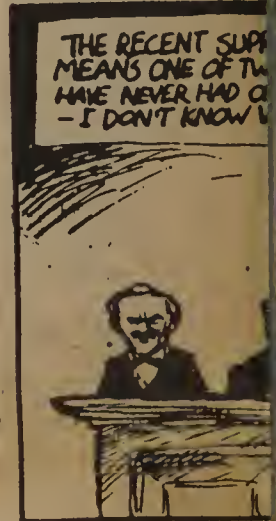
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Gay Sex in the Sights of the Right Intimate Inequality in the Minds of the Supreme Court

By Linda Vance

Hardwick v. Bowers, decided June 30 by a sharply divided Supreme Court, is a clear signal that the age-old tradition of queer-bashing is alive and well in the United States. Dismissing the claim that adult Americans have a right to choose their own sexual identities, the Court ruled that the right to privacy does not protect consensual oral and anal sex between gays. To hold otherwise, the Court suggested, would be to authorize not only homosexuality but also "adultery, incest and other sexual crimes."

What does this mean for gays? In legal terms, not much — yet. In terms of the struggle to gain equal human rights in a sexist society, it means having to resume a defensive stance to fend off the waves of repression and anti-gay laws likely to swell as a result of this ruling. Some people already misunderstand the scope of the ruling, and think the Supreme Court held that homosexuality is illegal; others will forget its details in time, remembering only that it was against gays. And many, knowing full well the decision's limitations, will nonetheless exploit it to muster up additional hatred among the Reagan Right.

The ruling is clothed in legal language and terminology, but at its center is a solid core of homophobia. Constitutional rights analysis is not so arcane a practice as the multiplicity of tomes, texts, reviews, comments, notes, articles and cases would suggest. Basically, it involves a simple step by step process: identify the right being claimed; determine whether it is "fundamental" or not; and apply the appropriate "standard of review" to ascertain whether the law affecting the right is constitutionally valid. If the right is "fundamental," the State must show a "compelling interest" in regulating it, something that, as a practical matter, States are almost never able to do. If the right is not fundamental, the State must at least show that there is some "rational basis" for the

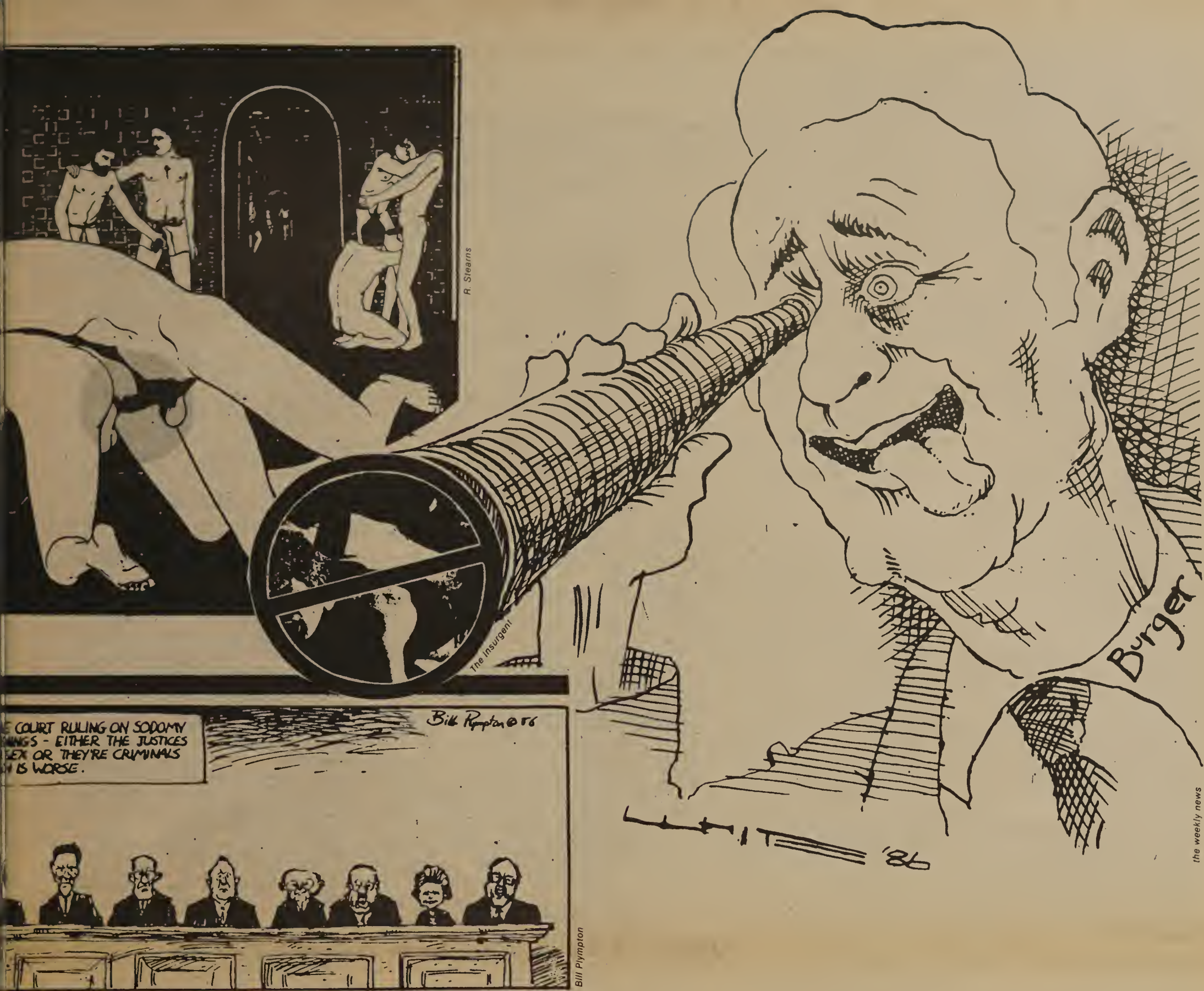
law in question, usually by proving that the prohibited behavior is dangerous to others. Ordinarily, the argument that people find the illegal behavior distasteful or even repugnant gets nowhere with the Supreme Court. Look, for example, at *Roe v. Wade*, the abortion decision. There the majority judges were dealing with an issue that much of the public was *wild* over. Did it faze them? No — they held that what was being asserted was a right to privacy, that privacy was a fundamental right, and that since the State couldn't show a "compelling State interest" in interfering with it, laws restricting abortions in the first three months of pregnancy were invalid. And for over 13 years, the Supreme Court has upheld that opinion, despite threats, hate mail, protests, pressure from Reagan, legislative attempts to get around it — even the appointment of new, more conservative judges to the Court. So, it isn't particularly surprising that most lawyers and academics thought that when the Court finally took a case dealing with sexual intimacy, the majority would recognize a fundamental right when they saw one and strike down all the remaining sodomy laws as unconstitutional. Well, we all make mistakes.

The majority of the Supreme Court refused to see any connection whatsoever between personal sexual choices and the right to privacy. This remarkable feat of vision was accomplished by donning intellectual blinders. Instead of examining a broad right to sexual intimacy for everyone, gay and straight, they looked specifically at a "right to engage in homosexual sodomy," and found that such a right did not exist. Reasoning that the cases which upheld a fundamental right to privacy had dealt primarily with the decision to "beget or bear a child," the Court asserted that "[N]o connection between family, marriage or procreation on the one hand and homosexual activity on

the other" could be shown. Nor could a fundamental right to consensual sodomy be said to be "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty" such that "neither liberty nor justice would exist if [it] were sacrificed." Because proscriptions against sodomy have existed since ancient times, and because anti-sodomy laws were on the books in the original colonies and in all 50 states until 1961, to claim sodomy as a fundamental right would be "facetious," the Court said. One can't help but wonder what the Court would have done if the case had been brought by a lesbian, since that same venerable tradition of biblical injunctions and sodomy laws utterly ignored the existence of female homosexuality. In any case, having thus identified the right as non-fundamental, the Court was able to skip to the step of examining the "rational basis" of Georgia's sodomy laws. Rejecting arguments that a rational basis for a law requires some sort of showing that the regulated conduct hurts the general welfare, the Court ruled that a "presumed belief of a majority of the electorate in Georgia that homosexual sodomy is immoral and unacceptable" was enough. And with that, they stamped and sealed their approval on the sodomy laws of 24 states and D.C.

The majority is no doubt delighted with this decision. Not only is the result blatantly anti-gay, the whole approach of the majority justices was viciously heterosexist. The laws being challenged didn't prohibit anal and oral sex between gays; it was a general prohibition, as it is in 18 of the 23 other States with such laws. There was no sound legal reason for the majority to restrict the analysis to gays; only the fact that the challenge was brought by a gay man gave them any semblance of appropriateness in doing so. Accusing the majority of distorting the question presented by the case, the four dissenting justices argued — correctly — that the case was really "about 'the most comprehensive of rights and the most valued by civilized men [sic]... the right to be left alone.'"

So why did the majority judges obsess on "homosexual sodomy?" One possibility is that they simply wished to avoid the issue of heterosexual intimacy altogether. It may well be that the majority judges believe that *no one* has a right to sexual privacy; certainly their reasoning, specious as it is, would support that conclusion. But imagine how foolish they would



have appeared to the general public if their ruling had been all-inclusive. People whose notion of "family" has been gleaned from glossy post-war magazines may be able to agree with the idea that "family, marriage and procreation" can't be compared with "homosexual activity." Yet even they would look askance at a statement that there could be no connection between the first three and "intimate sexual behavior." Obviously these things are related; equally obvious is the conclusion that if one is a fundamental right, all are. Imagine too how idiotic the majority would have seemed arguing that since non-procreational sex has been proscribed since ancient times, and was forbidden in the colonies, and is still outlawed in 19 states and D.C., the Constitution doesn't protect oral and anal sex between straights. They would have been accused of living in the Middle Ages, and condemned by nearly everyone.

In short, if the Supreme Court had ruled that State legislatures may constitutionally intervene into the intimate lives of Americans, public uproar would have been immediate and deafening. So why didn't the Court just say: "Gays have no right to privacy but straights do?" Gays are an easy target, after all. The media's insistent characterization of AIDS as a "gay plague" has convinced a lot of people that it's O.K. to trample on gays' civil rights. And a lot more thought it was fine to begin with: witness Falwell heralding the Court's decision as "a clear statement that perverted moral behavior is not accepted practice in this country." (NYT, July 1, 1986)

I think the answer to this puzzle is fairly straightforward. The majority judges recognized that either sexual intimacy is a right, or it is not, regardless of the gender of one's partner. And I think that recognition horrified them. Either they had to announce to a nation heavily dominated by the religious Right that everyone, including gays, is entitled to engage in whatever consensual sex acts they please, or they had to risk the wrath of the rest of the population by saying that government can regulate everyone's sexuality. There simply was no basis on which to rule that gays and straights enjoyed different degrees of privacy.

And so, fearful of hostility from both liberal and conservative straights, the Court decided it could defer the question of heterosexuality — perhaps

forever — and instead focus on a group that few people would rally to support. By exempting straights from their ruling, the Court was attempting to deprive gays of their most logical allies in struggles against sexual repression: other sexual human beings. To a great extent, it succeeded. Liberals have decried the ruling, but for the most part, straights have been silent, confident that they are safe — at least for now.

* * * *

The Supreme Court's ruling does not necessarily preclude all future federal constitutional challenges to State sodomy laws. For example, 14th amendment equal protection arguments can be made against laws which penalize oral/anal sex between gays but not straights, or against those which prohibit it between two males or between a male and a female, but not between two women, as is the case with many statutes.

But whatever the possibilities for restoration of rights at the federal level, gays had best not hold their breath awaiting them. Action now is better concentrated at the State level. Since State constitutions can be interpreted to offer more rights than the federal one, nothing stops State judges from invalidating sodomy statutes on State constitutional grounds. In fact, in several states, including New York and Pennsylvania, they have already done so, using an equal protection analysis. Nonetheless, litigation in this area is a gambler's game. Win, and the other side forfeits its repression chips. Lose, and they get the jackpot.

A slower, less risky, course is concentrated political effort, both formal and informal, directed at repealing the sodomy statutes themselves. In some cases, ordinary lobbying may be the most effective technique; in others, dramatic actions, such as mass surrenders of gays and straights who are "guilty" of this heinous crime, may prove persuasive. Obviously, repeal won't come easily. The 24 states with sodomy laws are not exactly bastions of liberalism: Alabama, Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, Tennessee, etc. (Of the northeastern states, only Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maryland still outlaw sodomy.) And at the same time, gays who live in more progressive areas must not be lulled into complacency. What *Hardwick v. Bowers* means in practical terms is that there will be no federal

constitutional impediment to states re-enacting laws they previously repealed, and moreover, it means that proponents of re-enactment will be armed with juicy and authoritative rhetoric to cite on behalf of their efforts.

Paradoxically, the most critical impact of the decision will probably be felt in areas it "legally" does not touch. Sodomy laws or not, cops aren't going to be busting into bedrooms. But the Court's language and reasoning will no doubt be invoked whenever gay rights are at stake. For example, in states still having sodomy laws, custody battles between gay and straight parents are likely to focus on the "illegality" of the gay parent's behavior, and the "trauma" the child would endure if the parent were arrested. While it is certainly true that anal and oral sex — all that is usually prohibited by sodomy laws — are far from the only forms of gay sexual expression, the distinction may well be lost on a conservative judge. And frankly, who would want to try making this distinction in the midst of a custody suit? Similarly, even though the Supreme Court's decision has no legal effect on issues relating to adoption, or immigration, or discrimination in housing, employment or occupational licensing, it will surely be quoted extensively in attempts to limit gay rights in those areas.

As noted earlier, most people won't remember the details of the decision for long, or won't understand its legal limits. So one vital task for gay activists has to be public education, both about the terms of the decision and its potential effect on the lives of millions of Americans. Another crucial task is a redoubled effort to secure anti-discrimination provisions in State and local laws, in union contracts, in non-union employment policies, in school admission procedures and disciplinary codes, in social service manuals, etc. A third is to publicize and promote enforcement of such regulations as already exist.

Even though *Hardwick v. Bowers* won't result in massive arrests and prison terms for gays, its ideological repercussions will be tremendous. Perhaps the best way to conceptualize the damage this decision will do to gays is to imagine what a victory the opposite result would have represented, both in legal and moral terms. Weighing the political advantage now held by the right, it's clear there's no time to wait before starting to fight back.

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POLITICAL/LEGAL

Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance, Box 65, Boston, 02117	247-3910
Boston Mayoral Liaison, Ann Maguire	725-3485
B.U. Gay and Lesbian Legal Association	
B.U. Law School, 755 Comm. Ave. Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Alliance	
PO Box 1273, Cambridge 02238	
Cambridgeport Gay and Lesbian Alliance	
David 497-6197 or Steven 492-8730	
Civil Liberties Union of Mass.	482-3170
47 Winter St., 02108	
GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders)	
600 Washington No.219, Boston, 02111	426-1350
Harvard Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues	
Roscoe Pound Hall, Cambridge, 02138	
Lesbian/Gay Prisoner Project	
c/o GCN, 167 Tremont, Boston 02111	
Mass Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus	262-1565
Box 8, Astor Sta. Boston 02123	
National Lawyers Guild,	
14 Beacon St., Boston 02108	227-7335

STUDENT

Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian and Gay Alliance	
c/o GAMIT, Rm 50-306, Camb. 02139	437-7399 (24hrs)
Northeastern U. Lambda, 260 Eli Ctr., 360 Huntington Ave., Boston 02115	437-2738
GAMIT (Gays at MIT),	
MIT 50-306 Walker, Cambridge 02139	253-5440
Gays and Lesbians at Lesley, PO Box 1747	
Cambridge 02138 Harv-Rad Gay & Les Stud. Assoc., 197 Memorial Hall,	
Cambridge, MA 02138	495-5476
Harvard Lesbian and Gay Medical/Dental Students Group	
Box 250c, 107 Ave. Louis Pasteur, Boston 02115	
Babson College, Gay and Lesbian Alliance	
Box 631, Babson Park, Wellesley, 02157	
Tufts U., Gay and Lesbian Community,	
c/o Student Activities Off., Medford 02155	628-2818
Boston College Gay & Lesbian Support Group	
Haley House, 314 Hammond, Chestnut Hill 02167	
Northeastern School of Law, Lesbian and Gay Caucus	
400 Huntington Ave., Boston 02115	
U/Mass/Boston, Lesbian and Gay Ctr.,	
Student Act. Ctr., Dorchester 02125	929-8276

Brandeis U., Triskelion, Box 430, Brandeis U., Waltham 02254	647-2332 or 647-2636
Boston U., Gays and Lesbians, c/o Program Resources	353-9804
Sherman Union, Boston 02215	
Smith College Lesbian Alliance,	
Stoddard Hall, Northampton 01063	
Wellesley Lesbians & Friends, Feminist Coop	
Oakwoods Coop., Wellesley Coll.	
Wellesley MA 02151	237-9296

WOMEN

Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective,	
666-0513 or 825-5508	
Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St.	
354-8807 (Voice and TTY)	
Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02138	661-3633
Dyke Doctors (Lesbian Physicians, Med Students Health Profs)	524-6335
Gay Professional Women's Assn.,	
Box 339, Gayton U Sta., Boston 02215	
Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers	723-6327
Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Center	354-8807
National Organization for Women	
99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge 02139	661-6015
Somerville Women's Center, PO Box 404,	
W. Somerville 02144	628-6311
Tufts Women's Center	628-5000 x3184
Urania (lesbian and bisexual women's S/M group)	
Box 23, 89 Mass Ave., Boston 02115	
623-0138 or 731-4230	
Women's Alcoholism Program,	
6 Camelia St., Cambridge 02139	661-1316
Women's Educational Media, 46 Bay State Ave. Somerville 02144	776-6759

RELIGIOUS

Am Tikva	782-8894
P.O. Box 11, Cambridge, 02138	
Dignity, 355 Boylston St., Boston 02114	536-6518
Friends (Ouker) for Lesbian and	
Gay Concerns, 5 Longfellow Pk., Cambridge	227-9118
Integrity, P.O. Box 2582, Boston 02208	262-3057
Lutherans Concerned for Gay People	536-3788
Metropolitan Community Church	523-7664
Fr. Paul Shanley	964-0996
Unitarian Universalists Office of Lesbian/Gay Concerns	
25 Beacon St., Boston 02108	742-2100
Boston Unit-Univ Gays & Lesbians, c/o Arlington St. Ch.	
351 Boylston St, Boston 02116	449-7988

MEDIA

Fag Rag, Box 331, Boston 02215	661-7534
Gay Community News	426-4469
Good Gay Poets	661-7534
The Guide	266-8557
Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA)	
c/o GCN, 167 Tremont, 02111	
Musically Speaking (WMBR 88.1FM, Mon. 8-10pm)	
Melanie	494-8810
New England Connection	265-5732
Outrageous Women (S/M publication),	
Box 23, Somerville, 02143	
Bay	542-5679

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

AIDS Action Committee Hotline	
M-F 3-9pm Sat 10am-4pm	536-7733
AIDS Action Committee	
661 Boylston St., Boston 02116	
Mass. State AIDS Hotline M-F, Noon-8; Sat 10-4	
1-800-235-2331	
AIDS Hotline (Dept. of Health)	
Mon-Fri 424-5916	
Fenway Community Health Clinic	267-7573
Boston Free VD Info	1-800-272-2577
(8am-10pm, M-F)	
Alcoholics Anonymous	423-9444
Gay AlAnon (families of alcoholics)	843-5300
North Shore Gay and Lesbian Counseling	
Program (non-profit)	744-5322
Tapestry Inc. 20 Sacramento St.,	
Cambridge 02138	661-0248
Tufts Skin Care Clinic (VD treatment)	956-5293

Eastern Mass. (617)

INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

Gay Hotline	756-0730
Gay Blues (WCUW 91.3 FM Wed. 7pm)	
GALLYS (Gay And Lesbian Liberated Youths of the North Shore), PO Box 1803, Haverhill 01830,	373-7618
Gaiwaves (WJUL 91.5 FM)	Kirsten 459-0579
Gaiwaves, c/o WJUL, 1 University Ave, Lowell 01854	
Central Middlesex Social Club	897-3462
Mass. Teachers Assoc./Gay Rights Caucus	
P.O. Box 75, New Salem 01355	
North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance	
Box 806, Marblehead, 01945	745-384E
Survival Crisis Line	471-7100
So. Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance	
Box 712, Bridgewater 02324	293-5183
Tri-County Assoc., PO Box 3493,	
Framingham, MA 01701	655-4268
United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns, c/o A.B. Day, Box 403, Holden, MA	
01520 Clergy/Seminarian Gay Support Group	646-2607
Dignity Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 321, Methuen 01844	
Central Mass Dignity/Integrity Group, Box 402,	
Federal Sta., Worcester	

WOMEN

New Bedford Women's Clinic	996-3341
Womanist (lesbian magazine), PO Box 963, P'town 02657	
	487-3393

STUDENT

Bridgewater St. Coll. Gay/Lesbian Alliance	
Bridgewater, MA 02324	
Clark U. Gay Alliance, 950 Main, A-70	
Gay Outreach Assoc. for Lowell (Univ.) Students	
South Campus, Student Union Rm 348	453-3804
Salem State Gay Task Force	
Salem St. College, Salem 01970	745-0556 (ext. 209)

Western Mass. (413)

INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

Lesbian and Gay Men's Counseling Collective	
406F Student Union, UMass, Amherst	545-2645
GALA (Gay And Lesbian Activists)	
Box 1084, Northampton 01061	586-9340
Help Line	664-6391, 664-6392
Valley Gay Alliance	
Box 181, Northampton, 01061	584-7903
MCC Springfield, PO Box 15576,	
Springfield 01105	(M-Sat 7-10pm) 536-5557
Western Mass. Parents & Friends of Lesbian and Gay Children, Box 4494, Springfield	
MA 01101	732-0677

WOMEN

LINC (Lesbians Inviting New Connections)	
Box 52, Ashby, MA 01431	
Valley Wimmings Connection	586-6445
Everywomen's Center, Amherst	545-0883
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst	545-3438
Lesbians United 33 Pearl St, Pittsfield, 01201	499-2425
New Alexandria Lesbian Library	
Box 402, Florence, MA 01060	584-7616
Southwest Women's Center	545-0626
Valley Lesbian Alliance	665-4705; 253-3082, 774-5464

STUDENT

Hampshire College Gay Men's Alliance	
Box 89, Amherst 01002	
Lesbian & Gay Men's Counseling Collective	
406F UMass Student Union, Amherst	545-2645
Lesbian Union, 920 Campus Center,	
UMass, Amherst 01003	545-3438
People's Gay Alliance, 413 Student Union RSO 242,	
UMass Amherst 01003	545-0154
Williams Gay Peoples Union	
S.U. Box 3212, Williams College, Williamstown 01267	

Maine (207)

Gay Phonenumber (Caribou)	896-5888
AIDS line	775-1267
Gay Health Action Comm, Box 10723	
Portland 04104	
Our Paper, Box 10744, Portland 04101	
Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition	
PO Box 1805, Bangor 04401	989-3306
Bangor Interweave, PO Box 8008, Bangor 04401	
Bates Gay/Straight Alliance, Health Ctr.	
Bates College, Lewiston 04240	
Bowdoin Gay/Straight Alliance,	
Moulton Union, Brunswick 04011	
Gay Peoples Alliance, U of So. Maine	
92 Bedford St., Portland 04103	780-4085
Northern Lambda Nord, P.O. Box 990, Caribou 04736	
Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, Box 108,	
Yarmouth 04096	
Maine Lesbian Feminists P.O. Box 125, Belfast 04915	
Seacoast Gay Men, Box 1394, Portsmouth NH 03801	
Unitarian-Universalist Lesbian and Gay Caucus	
125 Auburn St., Portland 04104	773-2121
Wilde-Stein Club, c/o Memorial Union,	
U. of Maine, Orono 04469	581-1288
Parents & Friends of Gays	549-7325 (eves & wkends)

Vermont (802)

Gay/Lesbian AA Baird 318 Med Ctr Hosp	
Burlington 05401 Gay AA, Brattleboro, 257-9354	
Gay AlAnon, Solor Hills Mansion,	
Western Ave, Brattleboro 05301 UV	Gay Student
Alliance, Box 87 Wright Hall	
Burlington 05401	
Gay Volleyball	482-3528, 862-4019
c/o Box 99, Hinesburg 05461	
Rutland Area Gays (RAGS), Box 147,	
Center Rutland 05736 (2nd Sats)	
Social Alt. for Gay Men (SAM),	
Box 479, Norwich, VT 05055	649-1304
Southern Vermont Gay Men	(603) 357-5544
Southern Vermont Women's Health Center,	
187 N. Main St., Rutland, 05701	775-1946
Vermonters for Lesbian/Gay Rights (VLGR),	
Box 281 Hinesburg, VT	05461
Women's Center, P.O. Box 92 Burlington 05401	863-1236
Integrity, Box 126, Burlington 05402	864-7198
Nat Assoc of Soc Workers, Box 147, Woodstock 05091	

Rhode Island (401)

Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth	521-7597
Families of Gay Persons	723-0050
Gay Help Line	751-3322
Box 5671, Weybosset Hill Sta. 02903	8pm-midnight
Providence Gay Group of AA	331-2047
Brown Lesbian Collective, c/o Sarah Doyle Ctr.	
Box 1829 Brown U., 185 Meeting St.,	
Providence 02912	863-2189
Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay	
Civil Rights, PO Box 5758 Weybosset Hill,	
Providence 02903	351-4499, 728-6023
University of Rhode Island Gay Task Force	
Women's Center, URI Kingston	
Women's Growth Ctr.,	
97 Knowles St., Pawtucket 02860	728-6023
Brown/RISD Gay Students, Box 49, Brown U.,	
Providence 02912	863-3062
Brown U. Gay & Lesbian Alumni/ae	
PO Box 6941, Boston, MA 02102	
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Pawtucket 02861	942-9400
MCC/Providence, PO Box 1462, Providence 02901	
	726-8106
MCC Special Ministry (terminally ill, aged and	
handicapped), Rev. George McDermott	521-7597

New Hampshire (603)

Gay NH Infoline, 10am-10pm, Concord	753-9533
Gay Men's Support Assoc. Box 3011	
No. Conway 03860	356-6101
NH Lambda, Box 1043, Concord 03301;	
224-3785, 889-1416,	
746-3339; (crisis) 483-2592.	
Monadnock Gay Men (MGM)	357-5544
PO Box 1124, Keene NH 03431	
Greater Nashua Area NH Lambda,	
P.O. Box 6443, Nashua 03063	889-1416
Speakers Bureau, Box 1043, Concord 03301	
Concord Area Gay Youth,	
Box 832, Concord 03301	
Concord Men's Group	(Herb) 485-5612
Box 832, Concord 03301	
Suncook Gay Prisoner Project	485-5612
Seacoast Gay Men, P.O. Box 1394 Portsmouth 03801	
Full Circle, monthly calendar of women's events,	
Box 235, Contoocook, NH 03229	
Iris, a women's club	
40 Pleasant St., Portsmouth 03801	436-8958
Women In Touch, PO Box 3541, Nashua	
888-2110 or 883-9228	
Dartmouth Gay Students' Assoc	
Hinman Box 5057, Hanover 03755	
Information Outlet	1-800-852-3311
Keene Klondykes, Box 261,	
Gilsum 03448	827-3766; 847-9589

Connecticut (203)

INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

Black and White Men Together, 58 Winchester Ave.,	
New Haven 06511	
Pink Triangle Coffee House, 620 Chapel St.	
St Paul's, New Haven 0640-6869	
Conn. Gay Task Force, P.O. Box 1139, New Haven 06505	
Helpline for Greater Danbury	426-4922
Gay & Lesbian Alliance of Greater Danbury,	
c/o Box 2045, Danbury 06810	
Gay Switchboard, Hartford, M-S 1-11 pm,	
Sun 1-5 pm, P.O. Box 514, Hartford 06101	522-5575
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, New Haven,	
P.O. Box 12, 06501; M-F 8-11 pm	624-6869</

Gay Games Boycott

Continued from page 1

expelling Gasa altogether, but in his letter, Nkoli wrote that, "I don't want to be used so Gasa should be expelled because of me. In this respect I'd suggest that IGA should wait until the trial is over."

The proposal was shelved in a workshop, however, because Gasa arrived unannounced at the conference and participants decided to give the group a hearing. "We didn't know Gasa was coming," said Peggy Bleecker of the ILGA Support Group of Toronto, "and we were wary of the group. But this was our first direct contact, and we decided to give them the benefit of the doubt."

As a counterpoint, ILGA voted at the conference to admit the largely Black Rand Gay Organization (RGO). The group was founded in April, and according to Jon Voss of the ILGA Information Secretariat, is based primarily in Soweto. Voss said that although

the group was new and had no program, it was "surely anti-apartheid" and was founded in reaction to Gasa's apolitical stance.

Ending of the Boycott

Sources who spoke with GCN gave conflicting reports on how its boycott of the Gay Games came to an end. According to Ian Dunn of SHRG, a workshop raised the issue of the boycott. At issue immediately was whether the boycott should be extended for another year. Soon raised were questions as to whether the boycott should cover Black South African athletes, and whether the boycott did or did not conform to United Nations resolutions on apartheid and sports.

In a plenary session, the boycott was ended by a vote of 38 to 11. According to Voss, much of the opposition came from "groups such as the Italians and the French who think we shouldn't mix pol-

itics in the gay movement." "The decision was not made for a political reason," Voss emphasized, "people were really confused about it."

"We made a tactical error in bringing up the issue again," said Dunn. "We opened up the door for all kinds of legalistic objections, and so they dropped the boycott."

In other actions taken at the conference, ILGA decided to circulate a petition in support of the Vaal 22, and to call on member groups to support the detainees committees in South Africa.

The group sent a letter of support to Nkoli and a letter of protest to President Botha of South Africa, calling on him to release all political prisoners and to end the state of emergency.

Reactions and Reflections

Shawn Kelly, of San Francisco Arts and Athletics, was "very pleased that no group has an organized boycott of the Gay Games and is looking forward to a successful festival." He reaffirmed that no South African athlete would be participating in the Games, and emphasized that registration was closed "and that applies to all prospective athletes."

Regarding Gasa, Bleecker said, "All we can do is wait. We're isolated from South Africa. We have to wait and see what Gasa is doing in the next year, and see if we can continue to give them support."

Voss commented, "In all, it was a silly situation. There we were, criticizing Gasa for its position on apartheid, and no Black people were present." Even so, Voss said, "Gasa is hanging on to a loose rope."

Ian Dunn was unmoved by the South African group's appearance: "SHRG is firmly opposed to Gasa's membership in the ILGA."

— filed from Boston

Cronan v. NET

Continued from page 1

medical insurance benefits. Counter told GCN, "I am 100 percent certain that Mr. Cronan will receive medical coverage from NET as long as he needs it."

To GCN's question of whether NET would allow Cronan to return to his former position within the company, a conflicting set of answers was given by Counter. In a telephone interview of July 29, Counter stated, "Yes, we'd be interested in Paul returning to his job if [measures assuring his safety] could be met, and if he were physically able to work." He added, "Any employee's safety is paramount to NET."

On July 30, after consulting with Holly Laurent, attorney for NET, Counter contacted GCN by phone to ask that his previous statement on the company's willingness to allow Cronan to return to his former job be "stricken from the record." He said his earlier comments did not reflect "NET policy in regard to Cronan's relationship with the company." When asked why a turnaround in philosophy had occurred, Counter stated only, "Paul does not work for us any longer . . . He has never given to us any interest in returning [to work.]" Counter added that if Cronan wanted to return to work for NET, "he'd have to go through the same application process that anybody [who has never worked for the company] does."

Cronan told GCN, "If and when I go back to work for the phone company, I will return only to the job [level] that took me 13 years to get to."

In addition to the humiliation he claims his dealings with NET have caused during the past fourteen months, Cronan fears his financial

difficulties can only increase. Cronan told GCN that, like many people who are placed on disability, the combination of disability payments and Social Security benefits (\$9,144 per year in his case) make him ineligible for federal assistance programs such as welfare and foodstamps. "They give you enough to live on," Cronan said, "but it's not enough to live on . . . I've got bills to pay. I have to eat, pay for my house and everything else, but I don't know how I'm going to do it on what I'm making now."

At present, attorney John Reinstein of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is reviewing NET written policies and union contracts to determine whether the firing of Cronan is legal.

WARD & LUND ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John P. Ward, David R. Lund
Janice Platner, Barbara J. Macy
Gerry Azzata

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Feminist Porn Debate

Continued from page 1

undercut by the perception that NOW — portrayed in the mass media as the leading voice of the women's movement — lent support to the Commission's conceptual underpinnings.

Many NOW activists were surprised and disturbed by the organization's failure to more clearly distance itself from the Meese Commission. California NOW state coordinator Shireen Miles told GCN that national NOW's statement was "premature and not truly representative of the organization."

NOW's 1985 policy statement calls for "exploring" legislative remedies to pornography, including the Dworkin-MacKinnon civil rights approach. A May 1986 resolution adopted by California NOW opposes both obscenity law and the Dworkin-MacKinnon proposal.

Smeal's statement also lends support to assertions that the Meese Commission has adopted the Dworkin-MacKinnon approach. In their statements, MacKinnon and Dworkin claim the Commission "has recommended to Congress the civil rights legislation women have sought."

But FACT pointed out that the report "rejected the Minneapolis-style 'civil rights' approach, pro-

posing instead that 'civil remedies' be obtained *only* for materials which fall within the traditional *obscenity* definition." The MacKinnon-Dworkin proposal centers on their attempt to distinguish pornography, which they define as material depicting the sexually-explicit subordination of women, from obscenity, legally defined as material that is "offensive" to "community standards."

Conflicting interpretations of the report, as well as the problematic reporting of feminist reactions, illustrate the escalating appropriation of feminist language by conservative forces. "The Meese Commission is trying to sell the traditional right-wing agenda by cloaking it in feminist language," the FACT release states. "As feminists, we are appalled that this latest attempt to restrict freedom is being disguised as an effort to 'protect' women."

But the leading spokesperson for Women Against Pornography (WAP), Dorchon Leidholdt, said WAP was "grateful" to the Commission for providing a forum" for its views. As reported in the New York *Newsday*, Leidholdt declared, "I'm not embarrassed by being in agreement with Ed Meese."

JEAN A. McCRAY

Attorney-at-Law

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Lesbian Facing Military Discharge

Continued from page 3

legitimate case of discrimination, but as someone who does not promote or support the military morally or financially, I'd have a real hard time getting behind [Nesbitt.] I don't necessarily support all ways of living for all lesbians and gay men." Shays added, "I do support her for coming out [to military officials,] but not everyone can be involved in every campaign, we have to choose our movements."

Shays took particular offense to a phrase in a petition in Nesbitt's defense, which states, "We believe that all American citizens have a responsibility to the defense of our Country and therefore NO discrimination based upon sexual orientation should be tolerated." "I think the military 'defense' is a farce," countered Shays. "The fact that over 62 percent of federal taxes go to the military is a complete sham and rip-off. In general, I think the military should not exist."

"The military is inherently discriminatory, not just against gay men and lesbians but all over the world, practically everywhere you look," said Sally Thomas, a lesbian member of the Bay Area group, Women Against Imperialism. "As gay men and lesbians we have to look beyond the individual person and understand how the institution actually func-

tions in the world. We don't want to fight for the right of gay men and lesbians to be a part of something so inherently discriminatory."

Meredith Smith, a lesbian board member of Resist, a Boston area foundation which funds progressive organizations and projects, said she supports "working to expose homophobia in the military,"

or working to get a lesbian or gay man's discharge changed from "dishonorable to honorable," but she does not support "spending time and energy to keep someone in the military."

For more information about Nesbitt's case, contact Citizen Soldier, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010; (212) 777-3470.

— filed from Boston

Correction

In a news article in Vol. 14, No. 1, Leslie Cagan was incorrectly identified. Cagan should have been described as the field director for Mel King's campaign for the Eighth Congressional District seat. Our apologies.

POLITICAL

Style to Hold Out For
ANOTHER ATLAS OF LESBIAN PERSONALITY TYPES

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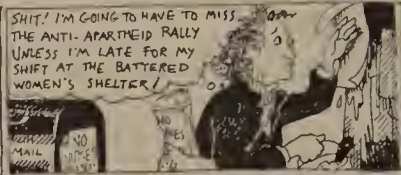
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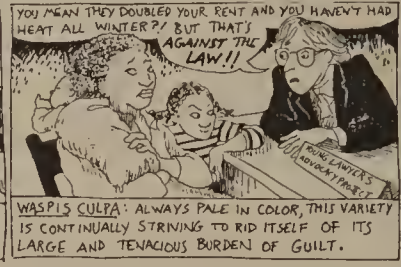
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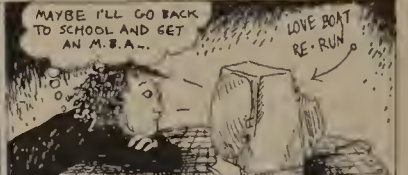
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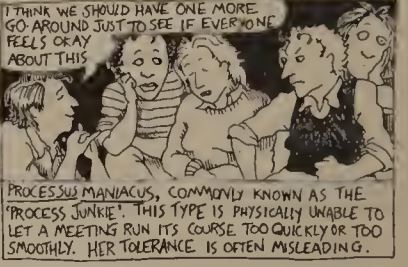
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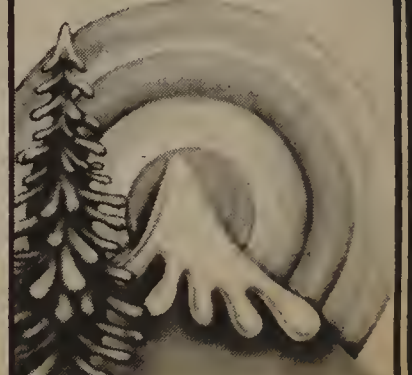
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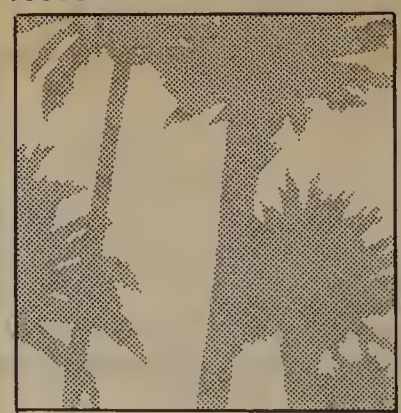
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GWM nonsmoker seeks same to share spacious 2BR Pondsides apt 1 block Arbwy. \$300/month and/Indy incl. Call 522-8064. Leave message for Martin. (5)

IN THE COUNTRY

L38, seeks nonsmoking L to share farmhouse with me and part-time daughter age 6. \$275 includes heat, util, w/d, yard, more. Some barter possible. 50 mi west of Boston: Commute to Southern NH, 495, Lowell, Worcester, western MA. 386-7737. (4)

2LF sk LF, warm, respons., friendly, to shr house in Newtonville. Beaut. yard, porch, frpl, cat. \$200 + util plus last mo's rent. Avail Aug 1st. Call Jackie or Irene 965-0648. (4)

North Cambridge: Semi-coop house of BiBF, GWM & SWM seek F-responsible, fun-loving & progressive. We enjoy art, conversation, exercising & cllantro. No cigs, or pets. Prefer 25+. Call 354-2697. (4)

Stoneham: Prof LF 38+ dog sks no-smok LF to share 2 BR/2BA spac mod sun apt w/pool, pkg. Conv to I95-93-Rt 28. \$385+ util. 438-8661. Avail now. (4)

COOP OR GROUP HOUSE

GM couple, 20's sks to enter/estab. friendly G/L/mixed household in Cambridge aea. We're nonsmoking, neat, responsible, quiet, politic aware, classical music fans. Need: to move Sept 1, parking for 1, rent \$520 or less incl ht. Call Dan, 426-4469 days; or Todd or Dan, 731-9760 eves. (C)

BROOKLINE HOUSE--

Mixed (M-F, S-G, 30s-50s)-seeks 5th longterm member: responsible, quiet, help with remodeling a plus. No TV. Near D line. About \$350/mo incl food. 731-4104. (4)

LEXINGTON

Open minded, warm female 30+, Prof. to share 3 bdrm cape house. No pets, cigs. Fpl, yard avail now. \$333+. Call Karen or Terry 861-7234. (4)

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L 39 seeks 2 non-smokers to share Som 3 BDRM. Cats ok, no dogs. Rent \$285+ util. Must be willing to sign lease. Call 628-7744 after 6 pm. (5)

2 LF+ 1 BIF seek 2 for large Allston house w/yard, porch, cat. No dogs or smokers. \$170 avail. Sept 1. 782-0599 Do you love food? (4)

Single female seeks to share unique house on South Shore w/couple & one single. Privacy & Ponds. No drugs. \$350/per + heat. House has everything! jacuzzi, garden...Call now. 331-3962 or 925-0946. lv ms. (4)

L looking for L to share 2 Bdrm Cambridge apt near Inman Sq. I like a friendly, relaxed home, prefer no drugs or alc. Lv msg 864-7711. (4)

JAMAICA PLAIN

Two wonderful dykes looking for thld. Apt w/plano, across from Arboretum, near Green and Orange lines. We're activists with a sense of humor. Rent \$200+. Available Sept 1. 522-6813 (C) Quiet, neat, non-smk L 30+ seeks 1 other to share 2 BR home in Medford. Sm yard, easy parking. Avail immed, \$300+ util. 396-34-38 early am or pm. (5)

NATICK HOME TO SHARE

Resp LF wanted to share home w/LF couple & son & pets. Conv to T. No smokers. \$350 w/utilities. 655-8331. leave message. (7)

HOME TO SHARE

2 GM seek house mate for 2 bedroom furnished, clean, neat, coop house. Warm, friendly atmosphere. Sunny, private yard. Seek responsible person with outgoing personality. References preferred. Convenient to T. Parking. animal lovers only. \$250+. 628-8065. Call after 5 or leave message. (5)

I seek 2 (independent, pref F, 24+) roommates for scruffy basement apt in Clev Circ nr 3 T Ins Sept 1. Considerate, respect privacy. No neat-nicks! \$208 \$216 incl heat. Call Naomi 739-6566 (5)

ROOMMATE WANTED

JLP seeks L to share 2 BD apt in Somerville. Friendly, independent. No pets, cigs; I prefer no alcohol/drugs. Available mid-August. \$275+. Call Nancy 623-5035 (E) 471-5087 (D). (6)

ROOMMATE WANTED

2 LF seeks 3rd 30+ LF for rm, avail. In 5 rm J.P. apt w/porch. Close to Pond, Arboretum, Orange & Green lines. \$192.00 incl heat bt not utilities. Independent but friendly household. Non-smoker preferred; no pets. Safe neighborhood; on street parking. Available August 15. Call Barbara or Rochelle, 524-0754. (4)

2JLF seek JLF for Independent, friendly, gt. apt low rent. Nr Davis Sq. Kosher/vegie. Pls call 623-8603. (5)

MELVILLE PARK

2M sk 1M to share beaut 9 rm apt nt T Red line (furn opt.) Pking avl. \$350+. Eves, 288-5025. Mike. (5)

HOUSING WANTED

LIKE CATS?

its hard to find housing when you have 2 cats. They are neutered, declawed, well-behaved. GM sks room in apt with 1-3 other GM or L, Sept 1, nr T. Prefer nonstudents, non smks, neat, quiet, resp, up to \$325 incl util, esp Brkline or Camb. Call Michael, 413-549-1304. (5)

ANY IDEAS? 2 LFs seek empty apt or space with others in 2, 3, or 4 BR apt ideally in Camb'prt or Ctr. Sq. We're flexible veggies, cooperative. Pls call with any leads: 629-2057 evenings. (4)

S SHORE RENTAL

Prof LF couple w/small dog (refs avail) seek 1 or 2BR rental (approx \$500 by 9/1 or 10/1 in Weymouth, Rockland, Hingham, Hull or nearby area. Leave message at 759-6030. (4)

HELP!

Professional LF couple both working in Boston Sep-Dec desperately seeking housing near T. Non smokers; like dogs, cats and humans. Call collect (919)477-1621 eve. (Durham, NC). Y'all call now, hear! (4)

NEEDS NOW

LF-easygoing, open minded, chem/Alc free, ready to quit cigs (considerate), prof., neat, sks own bdrm w/1-3 other Fs in Back Bay, Camb, Allston, anywhere nice, sunny and spacious. Max \$350 incl utils. Never have been on the East coast, will be working in Bos til Dec 21. Call Lisa at 338-6035 (w). Please be discreet. (4)

COUPLE NEEDS A HOME

GM couple, (both 23) seeks friendly housing situation in Bos or Camb. We're neat, responsible, non-smoking, politically aware, quiet. We will look for apt with compatible person(s) or enter existing household. Need rent \$525 or less incl heat, parking, move by Sept 1. Call Dan 426-4459 days, Todd or Dan 731-9760 eves. (C)

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WRITERS

Help GCN cover the culture beat all over the nation. Plays, movies, concerts, performances, we want the latest word on the newest creations from coast to coast. If you'd like to join GCN's team of volunteer reviewers, send a letter and writing sample to GCN Features, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston MA 02111 (C)

APARTMENTS

Jamaica Plain 5 room single family house for rent. Very good condition, fenced in yard, front and back, parking, near T, quiet neighborhood. No fee. Avail 10/1. \$800+ low utilities. Call 524-4050; leave message. (5)

MALDEN-BELLROCK

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Enjoy living in 2bdrm 1 bath liv rm w/eat in-kit on a quiet side street off Rt 3A in Weymouth. Breathtaking view of sunrise over Weymouth Back River. Beach and park with splendid view of Harbor just a short walk. Barbecue on your back porch. \$800+ele. 331-1107 Rebecca. Available now! (4)

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GOVERNMENT HOMES from \$1. (U repair). Delinquent tax property. Repossessions. Cal 1-805-687-6000 Ext. H-1437 for current repo list. (8)

Dorchester: first flr 6rm 2bdrm remodeled, new furnace, kitch, bath, flrs sanded bk proch, secure, well maintained, owner occ, \$475 mo no util. 282-1196 eve. (8)

GCN SPECIALS

DICTIONARY, anyone?

The most requested book at the Prisoner's Project is the dictionary. (Prisoners, generally uneducated, need them to wade thru law books etc.) If you have a spare one (paperbacks especially), please send it to: GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111. Thanks! (c)

GCN VOLUNTEERS

Yes, you too can share in the power & glory & office drudgery! Correspondence, filling, phone calling, etc. Days preferable but some nights O.K. Call Loie at 426-4469. (c)

PHOTO FANATICS

We still need folks to sort through and file old photos. Have fun and help GCN at the same time. Call Loie, 426-4469. (c)

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Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



PRISONERS!

Please, if you are interested in responding to the Amnesty International call for information about discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the prison system, drop Mike a line to get their questions. If they decide to support gays & lesbians in prison, it will be a great help!!! Send requests for questionnaire to GCN-Mike, 167 Tremont St, Boston MA 02111



STAY IN POPULATION !!

Gay prisoners can't help each other out as well if so many of us go into 'protection' units every time there's a possible problem. Let's try to stick together a little more (at least!) It might also bring out some other closet queens/kings as well. Steven WAREHIME, 42278, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.



BULLDOZER

An excellent prisoner politics rag! Their subtitle is: "the only vehicle for prison reform"(bulldozer!) They would like to hear from some gay prisoners out there with some articles about your experience as gay prisoners. Drop them a line at: PSC Publishers, Box 5052 Sta."A", Toronto, Ont. M5W 1W4 Canada (same postage as for U.S.)

Veteran GCN writer seeks help to resettle. Leads, help in finding radio, arts, admin, cable, clerical, writing/editing, or other job and/or housing needed for fall 86. John ZEH, 184-601. [Pris Proj Note: John is indeed a contributor around here. Please help him if you can.]

Young gay man looking for a job for when I get out in November. I'm loyal and learn quick and will do what I have to. I'm from the East coast. Healthy, lift weights, enjoy a good laugh and honest people. Please write Jim SITES, 39790-066, Box 1000, Oxford WI 53952.

I'm lonely in prison and looking for someone to talk (write) to. Sex does not matter. My hobbies are basketball, track and boxing and I get along with anyone. Synnachia McQUEEN, 305897, Rt 1 Box 1 Wynne, Huntsville TX 77349.

I am bisexual and have been like this since I was 10 (am 19 now). I would like to write to someone who I am able to talk to. My family wants nothing to do with me since I'm bisexual. Please write. Ricky COULBOURN, Box B-801320, Anamosa IA 52205.

I am fairly good looking which adds up to problems in here because I am not gay (though I might give it a shot sometime, when I get out, but not in here!); but I would like to be in touch with someone. My interests include, but are not limited to, reading (love stories and mysteries, drawing (or attempting to), music (late 60s rock), classical such as Tchiakovsky, and Renaissance music. Age is no matter. David G. ZIELINSKI, 283181, E-101, Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

I would like to come out to someone who happens to be very attractive to me but I just don't know how. He knows I'm a friend and I also know that he messes around with other gays, but dear reader, I would like to urge you to advise me on your experience of how to come out. Thank you. Phillip G. CLAY, 90146, Rain 2, Box 500, Angie LA 70426.

I'm a man of nice physical structure, of good intelligence with a yearn for knowledge, and a willingness to grow. I'm subject to moodiness and less particular than most. I thrive on thick romance and a dash of folly. Prison has not (yet) killed my soul, but I would like to hear from someone out there. Kim Leo EMIG, 159973 Box 500, Ionia MI 48846



Incarcerated lesbian wishes to correspond with sincere sisters who stand firm and proud in the sisterhood. I can appreciate leather or lace, but prefer ladies of lace. Doris Raven FOSTER, 904158, Box 535, Jessup MD 20794.

Mature lesbian looking for good conversation. Am artistically inclined, like music, art, people, animals, and sex. No hangups about color or nationality. Ms. Mildred CARTER, W22058, Box 1800, CRC dorm No.4707, Norco CA 91760.

Locked up and looking for penpals. Need to hear from the outside world. My interests are astrology, reading, music. Janice AGUILAR, 911003, Box 17, Gig Harbor WA 98335.

I'm 25 and would like to correspond with open minded people. I love music and dancing. Darlene ADISON, 160620, Box 227, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Would love to hear from sincere gay people. I write poetry and I love to sing. I also like to read and write so any correspondence would be gladly returned. Thank you. Dishunda HODGE, A160130, Box 148, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



Body Politic cartoonist looking for friends in RI-CT-MA area. I will arrive in December of this year, job in hand, but would like to know some people too in the area. As it stands right now the only people I know there are my employers. I'd be glad to do some drawing for GCN too. Thanks for the paper. Jon N. BODA, C-87640, Box 8101 Rm 5352, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

I'm seeking someone around my own age (20s) who would like to write me. I am really sensitive about a lot of things and I'm open to writing letters about gay stuff. Please write Michael (Mickey) SELLARS, 634034, Box 900, Shelton WA 98584.



I'm not openly gay (in the sense that I flaunt it) due to attitudes here, and also I'm from Minnesota which is a liability to developing friendships here as they haven't quite realized that the Civil War is over. I'd like to have a gay friend to write to. My interests are meditation, music, and power lifting. John W. BRADFORD, Box EF-147387, Reidsville GA 30499.

Ex-male-stripper will write hot! nut-busting letters from my experiences! Please send SASE. Thomas WINSTON, Box 215, Maury NC 28554.

Thanks so much for the reading material you've sent me. I'm on 'lockup' (23 1/2 hrs/day in my cell) and all I can do to better myself is read and write if I had someone to write to. Would you know anyone who wouldn't turn their backs on me because I'm in prison and a TS? (James is the name I was born with, but Jenny is my true name; though the courts haven't got that straightened out yet). J. MOORE, M5074, Box 99901, Pittsburgh PA 15233

Sexy gay pre-op, black long hair, dark brown eyes, long sexy legs, sweet kissable lips, and big sexy nipples. Would like to hear from real gay people, any race, creed or whatever; and I promise to answer all who take the time to write. Richard BORGES, 84A5344, 354 Hunter St., Ossining NY 10562.

Civil rights advocate and former thief in prison. Currently in law school and will take the bar exam in 1990 when I get out. Looking for friends for correspondence. I'm 45. Also I would like to help other prisoners with civil rights problems. I can't help with criminal law except Fed 2254. Am looking for emotional, not financial, support Dave MANN, Box B-54569, Florence AZ 85232.

CALENDAR

August 2
to
August 20



Phranc, 5 tuesday

2 saturday

Cambridge — "Conference Call," a dance performance by Jeffrey Pike, a pre-Gay Games II concert. Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 2nd St., one block from Lechmere T-stop. 8PM. \$5. Info: 666-4282.

Boston — BAGLY's 6th Anniversary Party, for those 22 and under & their guests. 3 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 6-12PM. \$3. Door prizes. Info: 497-8282.

3 sunday

Dorchester — GALA monthly potluck. 7:30PM. Bring a dish or beverage to share. Info: 288-8029 or 825-4463.

Jamaica Plain — Latin American New Song, & African & South American rhythms & percussion. Blackbird Kitchen, 597 Center St. 7-11PM. 13. Info: 524-9217.

Boston — Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian & Gay Alliance steering council. 7:30PM. Info: 437-7399.

Dorchester — Semenya McCord in concert. The Children's Zoo at Franklin Park, Blue Hill Ave. 2-4PM. Info: 492-4748.

Cambridge — "Sisters and Saints," original narrative by Kate Alicechild. New Words, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 4PM. \$5. Info: 891-1250

4 monday

Boston — GCN membership meeting and potluck supper. All volunteers welcome to critique the paper and plan its future. 167 Tremont St., near Park T-stop. 6PM. Info: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Battered Women's Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — National Assoc. of Social Workers Lesbian/Gay Task Force monthly meeting. 7:30PM. Info: NASW, 277-9635 or 625-2609.

Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Women's Network introductory meeting. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. All women welcome. Info: 522-3432.

5 tuesday

Cambridge — Former Nun Lesbian Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Big Women's Water Aerobics. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 6:40PM. For women 200 lbs & over. \$18/4wks. Info: 491-6050.

Cambridge — "Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima — the Lives and Art of Iri Maruki and Toshi Maruki," film. Friends Meeting House, Longfellow Park. 7:30PM. Followed by procession to the river. Donations accepted. Info: 262-2940.

Mansfield — The Smiths, and Phranc, in concert. Great Woods. 7:30PM. \$13.50-17.50. Info: 523-6633.

Boston — American Peace Test: protest nuclear testing. Dept. of Energy, 150 Causeway St. 8:30AM.

Medford — *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. Tufts Arena Theater, Talbot Ave., Tufts Univ. 1:30PM. Through Fri. \$3. Info: 381-3493.

6 wednesday

Boston — Sodomy Law Repeal demonstration planning meeting. City Hall, Piemonte Rm. 7:30PM. Info: 661-0974.

Boston — Hisoshima/Nagasaki bombing anniversary: public speak-out. The Common, nr. Park St. T-stop. 4:30-6PM. Info: 354-0008.

Medford — "Talley's Folly" by Lanford Wilson. Tufts Arena Theater, Talbot Ave., Tufts Univ. 8PM. \$8, \$6 seniors & students. Plays through Saturday. Info: 381-3493.

7 thursday

Cambridge — Lesbian Liberation. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Boston Ballet II performs at the Hatch Shell, the Esplanade. 8:30PM. Free. Through 8/16.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors meet at Doyle's Cafe for dinner. Washington St. 6:30PM. Info: 522-3894 or 522-6090.

Cambridge — Boston NOW's Legislative Task Force meeting. 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Central Square. 7PM. Info: 661-6015.

8 friday

Cambridge — Women's Coffeehouse. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-Midnight. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

9 saturday

Cambridge — Search for Housing/Roommate support group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 11:30AM-1PM. Info: 354-8807.

Jamaica Plain — Peacock Coffeehouse open mike. Centre & Eliot Sts. 8:30PM. \$2.50. Info: Mike, 522-2812 or Loren, 524-4281.

Cambridge — *Sera Posible Al Sur*, a film about Argentina. Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St. 6 & 8PM. \$5, \$3 students. Info: 495-4700.

Boston — Something About the Women: "Search for Peace: a Palestinian/Israeli dialogue." WMFO 91.5 OM. 11AM.

10 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors monthly potluck. Jamaica Pond, ODT driveway. 3PM. Newcomers welcome. Info: 522-3894 or 522-6090.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church, Christian worship for the gay and lesbian community. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.



The Smiths, 5 tuesday

11 monday

Cambridge — Self-help group for drug addicts. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — NOW's Economic Equity Task Force meeting. 99 Bishop Allen Drive. 7PM.

12 tuesday

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain evening of ballet under the stars. Esplanade, by the pink flamingo. 7:30PM. Bring a picnic if you want.

Cambridge — NOW's Reproductive Rights Task Force. 99 Bishop Allen Drive. 7PM.

Boston — AIDS/ARC "Buddies" orientation for new volunteers. Men and women welcome. People of color, bilinguals, elders especially needed. 661 Boylston St. 7-10PM. Info: 437-6200

13 wednesday

Cambridge — Fat is a Feminist Issue support group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 354-8807.

14 thursday

Boston — Semenya McCord in concert. One Lafayette Place. 5:30-8PM. Also on Friday.

Boston — "Building for Peace" presented by Vecino Nicaragua aid project. Kristin Langlykke, R.N., speaker. Arlington St. Church. 7PM. Info: 524-8171.

16 saturday

Provincetown — Boston Gay Men's Chorus' Provincetown Day Trip: day at the Herring Cove Beach, evening concert. \$30. Everyone welcome. Info: Richard, 739-1991.

Boston — Ionian Society, a group for lesbian & gay people of Greek heritage, trip to local Greek Festival. 7PM. New members welcome. Info: 625-3172.

Jamaica Plain — Girth and Mirth, a social group for fat gay men and their admirers, potluck barbecue. Info: 566-6530

Merrimack, NH — Gaylaxians, gay s/f social group, barbecue. Info: Gaylaxians, Dumas, P.O. Box 1373 Kendall Sq. Branch, Cambridge, MA 02142.

17 sunday

Boston — Boston's Other Voice, A Live Report on Gay Games II. WROR 98.5 FM. 12:30PM.

20 wednesday

Sandwich — Labor in the Global Economy: Union for Radical Political Economy annual summer conference. A four-day conference. Sliding scale fees. Info: 884-8747.

note this!

Aliens. Directed and written by James Cameron, based on characters created by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett. With Sigourney Weaver, Michael Biehn and Jenette Goldstein.

You don't have to be a science fiction fan to love *Aliens*. Probably you've already run out to your nearest theater after seeing the ads with Sigourney Weaver looking heroic holding a little girl in one arm and a super machine gun in the other. The reviews are full of superlatives; scariest, best action, most terrifying. Never mind the monsters and all the violence. *Aliens* is one of the most satisfying films around this summer — and all for the simple reason that the main character is a cool-headed, strong woman.

I first heard about its predecessor, *Alien*, from my younger brother. Not being a s/f fan myself I wasn't interested until he told me about Ripley, the character played by Sigourney Weaver. She's the only one who outwits the monster and manages to get out alive. The sequel begins with Ripley waking up after 57 years of floating in deep freeze sleep. The corporation that sent her into space in *Alien* wants to know what happened to her space craft and they're not satisfied with her explanation for destroying such an expensive piece of equipment. As in the first movie, they're more concerned about their bottom line than they are about the lives of their employees.

Asked by the corporation to return to the alien planet when contact is lost with the corporation's colony, Ripley says no at first. She is trying to get a grip on her life, but it's no good. Haunted by horrible dreams of the monster, she opts for going back to the real life nightmare.

And what a nightmare it is. The ad says, "There are some places in the universe you don't go alone." I tell ya, I'd go anywhere with Ripley, Vasquez, the beautiful, dykey Marine played by Jenette Goldstein, and the little girl called Newt. For all the monster movies you've seen where the men were smart and fearless and the women were hysterical twits, *Aliens* is a wonderful kind of antidote. Weaver's character is so confident and heroic it borders on comic book super hero, but then she's allowed to be tender — in a brilliant stroke — with a little girl instead of a man. Ripley doesn't rely on the men to come up with the solution or to protect her. Newt, the little girl, managed to survive by her wits while all the grown-ups on the colony got killed. And Vasquez is more than capable of taking care of herself. One of the first out in the line of fire, Vasquez is equally assured dealing with aliens as with wise cracks about her femininity. (Interestingly, the only guy to make such a crack — "Anyone ever mistake you for a man?" — is the one that falls apart when things get rough.) Too bad there's no interaction between Ripley and Vasquez — not even a nod of recognition. I guess that would have been too much.

Both Ripley and Vasquez are refreshingly free of any sort of sexual objectification from the men. What a combination: brave women, an anti-capitalist bias, and no sexual objectifying. And the best part is that everyone is flocking to see it. *Aliens* is not a perfect movie, there are some things in the plot that don't exactly make sense, but who cares? If you know of any teenage girls moping around the house, leafing through glamour magazines as they wait for the phone to ring — do them a favor. Take them to the movies.

— Monica Hileman

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GayCommunity News

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